

OBSERVATIONS
ON
Monsieur de Sorbier's
VOYAGE
INTO
ENGLAND.

Written to D^r. WREN,
Professor of Astronomy
in Oxford.

BY
THOMAS SPRAT,
Fellow of the Royal Society.

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A
L E T T E R

Containing some Observations
On

MONSIEUR de SORBIERE'S
Voyage into ENGLAND.

Written to Doctor WREN,
Professor of ASTRONOMY
in OXFORD.

By Tho. SPRAT.

Sed poterat tutior esse Domi.

S I R,



Here send You
the Account,
which Monsieur
de Sorbier e has gi-
ven of his Voyage into Eng-
land.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's gland. And though it be an insolent Libel on our Nation, yet I doubt not, but you will peruse it with delight. For when you have beheld how many errors, and falshoods, he has committed in this small Relation; you cannot but be well pleas'd to find, that whoever undertakes to defame your Country, he must at the same time, forfeit his Wit, and his Understanding, as well as his good Manners.

The *King of France* has already given him an effectual

Etual Answer. And it became the justice of so great a Monarch, while he was defending the Interest of the Christian Faith with his arms, to punish a pragmatical Reviler of one of the most powerful Kingdoms in Christendome : and while he was exacting satisfaction from the *Pope* himself, for an affront offer'd to his *Embassador*, to take care that none of his own Subjects should presume to injure the reputation of his neighbors, and neereſt Allies.

This just Reply which has been publicquely made to this rude Satyr, was the cause that it has not bin hitherto confuted by an *English Gentleman* of your acquaintance, who had undertaken it, whose Wit wee might have oppos'd against him, if he had still flourish't at *Paris*, with the Title of *Historiographer Royal*, though all his mighty boasts of his own abilities had been true. But however, though he is now below our excellent Friends consideration ; yet

I think my self engag'd to see him corrected. For having now under my hands the *History* of the *Royal Society*, it will be in vain for mee to try to represent its design to be advantageous to the glory of *England*, if my Countrymen shall know that one who calls himself a member of that *Assembly*, has escap'd unanswer'd in the publique disgraces, which he has cast on our whole *Nation*.

I will therefore Sir, briefly take him into a calm examination.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
amination. And that you
may understand how I in-
tend to proceed with him,
I do here in the beginning
profess, that I will not vin-
dicate the honor of the *En-*
glish, by making reflexions
on the *French*. I will not in-
deavour to repair our own
fame on the ruines of others.
I will have no contention
but with himself. I will only
put together, and compare,
the mistakes, the incoheren-
ces, the vanities of his Book.
And (to confess a secret to
you, Sir,) I am resolv'd to
take

take this course in answering him; not only because I abhor the sordid way of Wit, of abusing whole Nations: but also because I am not much inamor'd of the glory of his punishment. For I cannot think that it is worth a mans while, that can live quietly here at *London*, to have the honour of making three or four ill-natur'd jests, on a whole Kingdom, with the hazard of being justly banisht into *Flint* or *Denbigh* for ones labour.

I must confess Sir, I came at first to read him with some expectations. I had before seen what he had written in praise of those two great Men, the Ornaments of France, Gassendus, and De Marcu the Arch-Bishop of Paris. And I had some good hope, that the familiarity, which he pretended to have had with them, had taught him some of their good Qualities: that from the first he had taken that candour, and modesty, which the world admires in his writings:

writings : and from the other he had learn'd with what respect he ought to treat the fame of whole *Nations, Churches, and Sovereign Princes*, by that admirable defence, which he has made of the *Gallican* priviledges. Besides this, Sir, I took his Book into my hands with the greater good-will, because I had some knowledg of his person : I had seen him at the *Royal Society* : I had been a witness with what civility he had been there entertain'd : I had been inform'd

form'd what kindness he had receiv'd at *Oxford*: I had heard what favour the *King* had shewn him, by admitting him to private discourses with him in his Cabinet. And from all this I was encouraged to beleive, that he had given an honourable, or at least a just description of *England*. But I quickly perceiv'd how much I was disappointed: I presently saw what difference there is between scribbling fine Harangues on vertuous Men, and real vertue it self. I strait found

found that instead of the
good intentions, which he says, Pref.
he never wants, the greatest
part of his Treatise consists
of ill-grounded reproches :
that he has ventur'd on ma-
ny things, whereof it was
impossible he should receive
an account : that where he
might be suppos'd to have
some tolerable knowledge,
his malice has perverted his
understanding : and that
through the whole course of
his Observations, he has by
his own example made good
that character, which he of-
ten

P. 188.

ten in this Book bestows on humane Nature in general, *that mankind is most pleas'd with trifles, and that we are all credulous and Lyars*.

In his *Epistle Dedicatory*, he assures the *most Christian King*, that *the principal motive of his journey, was a desire to advance his Majesties glory*. The Design was commendable, and worthy an *Historiographer Royal*. But what course did he take to increase his renown ? he says, *that he travell'd abroad, on purpose to spread throughout the*

the world, the fame of his Majesties munificence to himself.
I beseech you, Sir, how long will your English modesty overwhelm you? how much reason have You real *Philosophers*, and *Mathematicians*, to have high thoughts of your selves, if it shall be allow'd to a man, who has onely got some name by creeping into your companies, to beleive himself so considerable, that his Masters liberality to him ought to make to all mankind admire his Magnificence? The *Christian*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
stian world has better signs
of the greatness of the *King*
of *France's* mind; his armies,
and money have been hono-
rably imploy'd against *Al-*
giers and *Constantinople*. A-
midst all these glorious ex-
pences, what a mighty sound
does it make, that *the famous*
Monsieur de Sorbiere did re-
ceive a small stipend out of his
Treasury?

But that you may the
better understand, who this
great man is, that can either
exalt, or diminish the ho-
nor of *Princes* with a word
of

of his mouth : I intreat you
to hear his own description
of himself. I will onely
repeat in his own words, the
praises, which in the com-
pass of a few leaves, he has
given his own merits: by
which you may guess how
unjustly he has misplac't, the
titles of *proud*, and *arrogant*, P. 133.
when he bestow'd them on
one of the best Natured, and
bashfullest Nations in the
world. He brags, *that he* E. Ded.
has spent all his life, in ad-
vancing the reputation, and
sustaining the interests of the
Sciences;

E.Ded. Sciences ; that he has always push't on, and encourag'd the great Masters of Knowledge to labour : that he has made a

P.201. noyse wherever he came : that he has got a discretion how to

E.Ded. judge of good things : that he has mingled himself in the in-

E.Ded. trigues of the Muses ; that he has been so happy, as to be heard by them, and to get some credit

E.Ded. amongst them : that he holds a constant commerce with the

Pref. chief heads of Parnassus : that he has either been acquainted with all the learned men of the Age, or has had certain information

mation concerning them: that E.Ded:
his King did not favour him,
without understanding him
well.

Now Sir, would not any man that reads this conclude, that *Monsieur de Sorbiere* is his own *Historian*, more then the *King of France's*. Is this conformable to his own Rule, which he sayes he prescribes to himself, P.93.
not to make *Elogies* on any man? Before he had dar'd to have said so much of himself, ought he not to have exceeded *Julius Scaliger* in
C his

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
his Learning, and his nobility, as well as he has done in his spite to our Country? whereas the plain, and the true story of *Monsieur de Sorbier's* life, is only this, he was borne at *Orange*, and for a long time profess'd the *Protestant Religion*, all or the greatest part of his *Writings*, have been only some few Letters, a small *Panegyrick* or two, a translation of Mr. *Hobbes's de Cive*, into *French*, *this Description of England*, and another of *Holland*. His first imployment was to
teach

teach a younger Son of the *Count de la Suze*, then he was made Usher to a Schole in his Native City. Both these places he lost upon suspicion of some heterodox opinions in the fundamentals of *Christianity*. In this discontent he came to *Paris*, renounc't his Religion, and turn'd *Papist*. And at last, by many insinuations and flatteries, he obtained to have the profits of a small *Canonship of Avignon* settled upon him. This Sir, is all the *Bruit* that *Monsieur de* P. 201.

C 2 *Sorbiere*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Sorbiere has made in the
world. And this Confi-
dent of the Muses, this Dar-
ling of *Parnassus*, this Favo-
rite of *Cardinals*, this Com-
panion of Governors of *Pro-*
vinces, this Censurer of Na-
tions, this Judge of *Kings*,
though he strove to advance
himself by *two Religions*, in
the one did never rise to a
higher office then of a *Pe-*
dant, in the other never got
a greater preferment, then a
pitiful *Sine Cure* of *two hun-*
dred crowns a year.

And yet you have no rea-
son

son to think that he has been wanting to himself all this while, seeing in this very *E-pistle* you find him in plain terms *beseeching his Majesty*, *E.Ded.* *that he would employ him.* 'Tis a modest request. But what other place is that which he can desire? he sayes that *he has already been glorifi'd with* *P.201.* *the title of Trumpeter.* After *E.Ded.* this, whither would his Ambition lead him? *In this Warfar of Letters* (*give me* *E.Ded.* *leave to prosecute his own Metaphor*) the name of *Trumpeter* best becomes him.

For (according to his *Brother Trumpeter's* defence of himself in the Fable) it is never requir'd of such officers, that they should engage in the fight, or do any *Real Service*, but they are onely us'd for a *shew*, and to *make a noyse*.

As for his other Qualification of *Historiographer Royal*, I will shew you in one instance how he deserves it. He tells his *King*,
E.Ded. *that he has reported in every Country where he came, the prodigious benefits, that heaven has heap'd*

heap'd upon him : that to the Statesmen he has proclaym'd his Industry in business, and the strength of his Judgement : to the Souldiers, his Valour : to the Friends of the Church of Rome, his Piety : to the Grantees, the Pomp of his Court: and to the Fair Sex, his good Meen. These, Sir , are all Brave words, and he had a glorious subject, whereon to amplify. But let us consider the authority of his testimony. For *Monsieur de Sorbier*, the Kings Historiographer, when he might have had so much

much better intelligence, when he might have alleg'd the witness of all the *brave men in France*; does yet openly declare, that he receiv'd the image of his own Prince's vertues, from the Report of *Madam Fiennes*, a Lady whom he met with accidentally at *Calais*.

P. 8.

Upon the very entrance into his journey, as soon as he sets forth from *Paris*, he gives evident proofs of the lightness, and vanity, of his mind. From what he had said before in his own commendati-

mendation. I began to fancy in my thoughts, a *grave Philosopher*, going forth with the intent to survey all civil States, that he might bring back their profitable Arts, and enrich his Native Country with them. I call'd to mind the Examples of *Pythagoras, Solon, Thales, Plato*, and almost all the first *wise men* amongst the *Grecians*; who were wont to make long voyages into *Egypt*, and the *East*, for such honourable purposes. And upon this thought I was inclin'd to
forgive

forgive him all his former Boastings, and to look on them onely as pardonable imperfections, which sometimes accompany *great Wits*. And hence, Sir, you may think how much I was surpris'd, when I saw that the first fruits of his travels were *an account of the pleasant company, that he had on the way, of certain Polacks, that spoke Latine, that could play on the Violin, and that gave him a daunce twice a day.* But hold Sir, I will not give him this occasion, to confirm the sentence,

sentence, which he has past upon us, that the *English* are of a gloomy, extravagant, fanatick, melancholy humour. I am content to allow him these divertisements. It was fit that he, who went forth to civilize barbarous Nations, should be attended as they were of old, with harmony. Yet you cannot but be delighted, when you observe the choice that he made : that he who undertook to censure, and refine manners, and to promote inventions, he who talks of nothing less
then

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
then *intrigues with the Muses*,
should find nothing worth
mentioning in his journey
from *Paris to Calais*, but the
Musick, and the dauncing of
Poland. Seeing his skill is so
good in one of the *liberal*
Arts, seeing he was so well
satisfi'd in *France* it self, with
a *Fiddle of Cracaw, or War-*
shaw, I wonder he would
come into *England*, to search
for *Philosophy*, and had not
rather gone to the *famous U-*
niversity of Mosco.

And yet, Sir, to speak the
Truth, I can easily pardon
Monsieur

Monsieur de Sorbier's affection to a *Polish Jyg*. This is not the worst thing, in which he has expres't his inclination to that Country. He was turn'd out of his *Schole* at *Orange*, for being a *Socinian*. And therefore we may well allow him to be an *Heretick* in their *Musick*, seeing he was so in their *Divinity*.

In this Jolly posture he arrives at *Calais*. In the same Inn lay *Madam Fien-* P. 6,7.
nes. She was invited the next day to dinner by *Monsieur de Courtebonne*.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 Courtebonne. Monsieur de Sor-
 biere waits upon her thither.
 The entertainment pleas'd him.
 For this he commends his Host,
 for one of the most accomplish't,
 and obliging Gentlemen in
 France. And he professes, he
 thought himself bound in Con-
 science to make him this pub-
 lique acknowledgment. What
 is to be blam'd in all this ?
 what could be more court-
 ly ? what a greater sign of
 a scrupulous, and tender Con-
 science, then to beleive him-
 self so much ingag'd to be
 grateful for a good Potage ?
 what*

what greater reconipence
could a *Royal Trumpeter* make
to *Mounſieur de Courtebonne*,
then thus to ſound up his
meat? hitherto all is well.
But now, Sir, I pray recol-
lect, whether he deals ſo fair-
ly, and religiously, with your
fellow *Profeſſor*, *Doctour Wal-
lis*? to whom, for all his
good cheer, for a hearty
welcome, for ſhewing him
the *Univerſity of Oxford*, for
imparting to him many cu-
rioſities, which he himſelf
confefſes were admirable, he
has return'd no other thanks P. 94.
then

P. 100. then *only a ridiculous description of his Cap.*

P. 14. At his landing at *Dover*, he was saluted with ill language by the Boys. Me thinks the *handsome entertainment* that he met with there at his return, might have mov'd him to conceal this ill usage. Though the matter it self, at the worst, was not worth speaking of; for he might have consider'd, that it is an ordinary thing for Boyes, not to have any great kindness for *Schole-Masters*: yet hence he takes occasion to
 inveigh

inveigh against *the rudeness* P. 14.

of the whole English Nation.

I have already, Sir, engag'd
my self, to forbear compari-
sons: or else, I might per-
haps very justly, contradict

what he says, *that the Eng-* P. 14.
lish are always welcom'd at

Deip, and Calais, with so much
obliging care. We are indeed

with care enough. For the
inhabitants of those places

seiz on everypart of us, some
catch our Cloaks, some our

Hats, some our Cloak-bags:
and when we are by piece-

meals brought to Shore, our
D officious

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
officious friends demand their
own rates for having thus ob-
lig'd us: so that sometimes we
can scarce know, whether we
should call it a Landing, or
a Wreck. This, Sir, is more
then a verbal Incivility. Yet
I make no Conclusion from
hence against the whole
French Nation, but only a-
gainst the *Porters*, and *Mari-
ners*, of *Deip*, and *Calais*. And
the same Right ought *Mon-
sieur de Sorbier* to have done
us. He should not have
presently exclaim'd against
the whole *Kingdom*, for that
which

which is only to be attributed to the ill Discipline of *Dover-Schole*. This, Sir, may serve to give you some light, what kind of Judg we are like to find him in matters of greater weight: and when you read, that *he al-* P. 12.
ledges no other sign of the English Courage, then that their Butchers are delighted with the noble Combats of Bulls, Bears, and Dogs: I hope you will remember, that it is the same Man, who is here wise enough to pass a *General Rule*, concerning the *English ill*
D 2 *manners,*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's manners, from the Rude behaviour of the Children of one of our Sea-Towns.

Yet, to do him right, in this particular, he does not cast all the blame on the *English*: but he involves
 P. 15. the *Dutch*, and the *Italians*, in the same common Crime. He here complains, that as we call the *Frenchmen Dogs*,
 P. 15. so the *Dutch* upbrayd them with the approbrious name of *Mushromes*, and the *Italians* with the worse term of *Fools*. For my part, I think all this by no means to be
 justifi'd,

justifi'd, if the accusation be true. But however, how does this consist, with that Flatt'ry which he uses to his *KING*, that *whereever he came, he found the whole world ready to submit to the French Empire?* What says he now? Is it probable, that all Nations are willing to make *France the Seat of a Universal Monarchy*, when at the same time, he assures us, from his own experience, that the usual Titles, which their Neighbours bestow upon them, are those of *Dogs, Fools, and Mush-rooms?*

D 3 The

E. Ded.

The next part of his *Journy* is from *Dover* to *London*. His errour about the distance between these two places I forgive: though in
 P. 9. *threescore miles he mistakes ten.*

All the evil touches which he here gives, concerning the Disposition of the *English*, I reserve for their proper place. But I must take notice how particularly the *Historiographer Royal* describes the *Waggoner* of *Canterbury*.
 P. 18. *The Horses were ty'd one before another: The Driver cloth'd in Black: a brave Mountæro*

*Mountæro on his Head: a jo-
cund fellow; mighty well sa-
tisfy'd with himself: a great
Droll: in all things appointed
like another Saint George.*
What think you now Sir?
may we not after this beleive
that *Tom Coriat* is one of the
cheif Heads of Parnassus,
with whom he has convert?
Where lyes the Difference
between these two *Learned
Authors?* That famous coun-
tryman of ours was just so
curious in his Relations:
neither Horse nor Man could
escape his Pen: on his

D₄ Host's

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 host's Beard, and his Sign-
 Post he still declaymid :
 Here are only wanting the
Frenchman's Bills of Fare
 every night, and you might
 have sworn, that *Mon-*
sieur de Sorbiere had inheri-
 ted the great, and inquisi-
 tive spirit of the *Noble Tra-*
veller of Odcomb.

I will not here much in-
 sist on the Irreverence of
 this zealous *Roman Catho-*
lique, as we shall afterwards
 find him to be : though me-
 thinks it was not well done
 of him, to object to the *En-*
glish

glisb their calling Saint Paul, P.42.
by the familiar Name of Paul;
when he himself *has com-*
par'd one of our chief Saints to
a Waggoner. Nor am I much
concern'd, to see him so pun-
ctual in describing the *Wag-*
goner of Canterbury to his
Shirt, and yet not to make a-
ny mention of *Thomas Becket,*
and *Austin the Monck,* the re-
nowned *Saints* of that place.
But yet I will here tell him,
that though he was so care-
less of his *Religion,* he might
have conceal'd this Chara-
cter of the *Waggoner* upon a-
nother

nother account : For he will hardly be able to persuade his *Reader*, that the best way to spread the report of the magnificence of his *Patron*, was to ride to *London* in a *Wagon*.

P. 18.

But to give you farther evidence of the solidity of his humour. In all the *Rode* between *London* to *Dover*, he forgets not to enlarge upon every thing that he saw, except only that which is one of the *bravest spectacles* in the *World*. He is very exact in

P. 26,
27.

surveying the *Bay-Windows* of

of *Canterbury*. He fully describes the *Bowling-Greens*, P. 22. and the very *Rowlers*, that make them smooth: he speaks so *Romantically* of the *Val-* P. 22, *lies*, the *Hills*, and the *Hedges* 23, 24. of *Kent*, that the *Authors* of *Clelia*, or *Astrea*, scarce ever venture to say so much on the like occasion: he commends the convenient *Form* of P. 29. *Rochester Bridge*: which he says, is so contriv'd, that mens *Hats* cannot be blown over. Who can deny, but in all this he is a very circumstantial, and Faithful Relator?

But

But I pray, Sir, mark, that he spends very many more lines in speaking of each of these *Toyes*, then of the most magnificent *Arsenal* at *Chat-tam*, which lyes just below that *Bridge*. Of this he only in passing says, *that here our Ships of War are built, and here they are laid up, when they return.* And has he not here unawares betraid the Levity of his own mind? where then was his *Philosophical Curiosity*? where his *discretion to know good things*? where his *Love for Great, and Wonderful*

P. 29.

Wonderful Arts,? what was
a fitter Prospect to have
stop'd at? where could the
antient, or present *World*
have shewn a *nobler Sight*?
For there, in one view, he
might have seen the *Ships*,
that command the *Ocean*:
that make this small people
that he despises, terrible to
the ends of the Earth. We
confess we yield to the
French in the Beauty of their
Cities, and *Palaces*: But in
our *floating Castles* we outgo
them as much. He is in the
right, that about *Paris*, there
is

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
is a far greater number of good
Buildings: But the Suburbs
which *London* has on the
Thames, and *Medway*, make
a sufficient recompence for
this defect; as long as we
exceed all the World, in the
Fabricks of Strength, and
Empire, we may easily al-
low him to object to us our
want of those of *Pleasure*.
And without question, the
Sovereign, the *Charles*, the
Prince, the *James*, the *Henry*,
the *London*, the *Resolution*,
and above an *hundred* more,
the best in the *World*, might
have

have been thought worthy naming by him, that almost reckens up the *Windows*, and the *Cellars* in *Canterbury*, and expresses himself so well satisfys'd to see, that *there was care taken*, that a plume of *Feathers* should not be disorder'd upon *Rochester Bridge*.

In his *Description* of *London*, he affirms that it is P. 32. bigger then *Paris*; and that it is a vulgar error of his *Countrymen* to think otherwise. And to manifest how vast he beleives its extent to be, he professes, that he would not undertake

P. 37. *undertake to frame an exact Idea of it in his mind, under a whole years time.* This, Sir, methinks, might have admonish'd him, that if he was not able to take a full draught of one *City* in less than *twelve Months*, he has been very *presumptuous*, (let me return upon him his own word) to conceive that he could give a Character of the *Genius*, and *Vices* of our *Nation*, of the *Constitution*, and *Corruptions* of our *Church*, of the *Weaknesses* of our *Government*, of the *Pedantry* of our

our *Learning*, and of the
Barbarousness of our *Language*, in *three Months* time.

This consideration ought
certainly to have stop'd his
Pen a little, especially seeing
the *Streets*, and the *Alleys* of
London stand still, and re-
present themselv's always in
the same fashion to our eys,
and it is enough to know
them perfectly only to tra-
vel them often through :
whereas it is so intricate a
work, to take a right Pro-
spect of the *Manners* of *Men*,
the *Humours* of *Nations*, and

E the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
the Secrets of Princes Coun-
sails, that it is perhaps the
most difficult employment of
human Wit.

'Tis true indeed, he in-
 deavors to fetch a justifica-
 tion of his Insolence, from
 the *English* themselves: But
 the *Apology*, which he makes,
 rather aggravates his offence.

P. 10. He says, *he is confident, that*
if he writ in our own language
he should not displease us. And
 he gives this reason for it,

P. 11. that the *English* have often
 caus'd their Character to be
 publish'd: and that they have
 this

this peculiar good Quality, that they love to have themselves handled plainly, and ill-spoken of. This he professes to mention in our praise. And if this be his Courtesie, I now find, that the Passengers with him in the Waggon had reason, when (as he complains) they interpreted his very Civilities for affronts. But P. 21. hold, Sir, what is this that he here says? has the English Nation ever caus'd its Character to be Printed? he speaks of it, as if it had been a thing done by Act of Parliament,

E 2

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
liament, and by the Authority of the whole State. 'Tis true, Sir, there was (as you may perhaps remember) a small *Pamphlet*, that came out with the *Title of the Character of England*, about six years ago. But that was pretended to be a *Translation* out of *French*. Or let us suppose that it was an *Englishman* that writ it under that disguise: yet has *Monsieur de Sorbiere* from thence any ground to say, that *the whole English Nation* has often printed its own *Character*?

rafter? I will give him one instance to shew how absurdly he did thus conclude, from one particular man, to a whole Country. *Monsieur de Sorbriere*, in his *Book of Letters*, has inserted (as he calls it) a *Sceptical Discourse concerning the City of Paris*: wherein he uses the *Metropolis* of all *France*, almost as injuriously, as he does the *English* in this *Relation*; with language as foul, as the *Dirt* of *Paris* itself. Now then, because *Monsieur de Sorbriere*, a pri-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
vate inhabitant of *Paris*, has
presum'd to slander it, in
that manner; does it become
me to affirm *that the whole*
City of Paris has written a
scandalous Libel on it self?

But perhaps by this In-
stance which I have here
mention'd, *Monsieur de Sor-*
biere will raise an Argu-
ment, that shall be very
much to his own advantage.
For now he will be ready to
say, that the *English* have
no great reason to take his
Affronts unkindly, seeing
he has been already so free
of

of his Corrections, and Re-
proofs, as not to spare his
own *Countrymen* themselves.
I accept of his *Apology*. 'Tis
Pietatis plena Defensio: 'Tis
an excellent good Natur'd
Defence, for his rayling a-
gainst *Strangers*, that he
has done the same before,
against his own *Fellow-Citi-
zens*.

But to return to the *En-
glish-Book*, which he pro-
poses as his Pattern. Seeing
we have but one Libel in our
Language, against a whole
Country in general, let us

permit the *Historiographer Royal*, to imitate it. Yet I cannot imagine how he came to understand that *Book* alone, when he professes that he was utterly ignorant of the *English*.

p. 20. *Tongue* in all things else. It seems that reviling, and Satyr is so natural to his mind, that he is able to conceive the sense of it, though the *Language* in which it is written, be never so much unknown to him. However, if he compare the times of their publication, we shall find

find that there is a great distinction between the crimes of the *English*, and the *French Satyrift*. The first of these was publish'd during the Tyranny of the late Usurpers: and though it was very severe on the *English* in many passages, yet the greatest part was spoken with a good intention, in reproof of the miserable distractions of that Age, and the many ill-Customs which a long Civil-War had introduc'd. I beg of you now, Sir, to consider, by what an Example
he

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
he clears himself. Because
there was one Satyr writ-
ten on our Nation, in a time
of Licentiousness, and Con-
fusion : he will second it
now with a Worse, when we
are settled in Peace, and Pro-
sperity. Seeing he thinks
this Plea sufficient, for what
he says against the Manners
of the *English*, that an *Eng-
lish-man did the same under
Oliver, or Richard* : I would
have him also defend him-
self in all his Slanders on our
Court, and the *King's Mini-
sters*, with an argument that
will

will resemble the other. For why may he not assert, that it is lawful for him now to use such Liberty ; because *Milton* was allow'd by the *Rump* , to write a Villanous Book against the late *King* of Blessed Memory ?

This weak excuse therefore, Sir, that he makes for his Barbarous way of handling Us, shall not serve his turn. He is so far from having receiv'd encouragement from the *English* : that I can shew him several Volumes of the Voyages of some

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
some of our Countrymen,
into *Russia, Persia, Egypt, the*
Turkish-Empire, the East-Indies, and *America*, which
have given a more advantageous account of those *Infidels,* and *Barbarians*, then
he has done of one of the
most polite Countries in
Europe. The *English* have
describ'd, and illustrated,
all parts of the Earth by
their Writings: many they
have discover'd; they have
visited all. And I dare assure
him, that they have been al-
ways most tender of the Re-
putation

putation of *foreign States*, which they have gone to visit, as they have been most merciful in sparing the *Natives* blood, in those Countries which they discover'd.

Let us now behold how *Monsieur de Sorbiere* has conform'd himself to this generous *English Spirit*. I will give you in a short view some of the good terms that he has bestow'd on our *Nation* in General. He says, *That we have skimm'd all the vices, and disdain'd the vir-* P. 12.
tues

- tues of other Countries: that*
P.112. *we condemn all the rest of the*
World: that we esteem all
mankind besides miserable:
P.112. *that we scorn to look on them,*
or to speak to them, when they
P.153. *travel hither: that we fre-*
quently menace, and insult over
P.113. *our neighbours: that it is very*
hard to know, how to get our
P.12. *good will: that we have a*
strong union amongst our selves
against strangers: that we re-
P.133. *gard the prosperity of others*
with an evil eye: that we have
P.11. *a natural inclination to idle-*
ness, to presumption, to a cer-
tain

*tain extravagance of thoughts,
which is to be found in our most
excellent writings: that almost
all the English are guilty of* P. 11.
*these faults, because they pro-
ceed from our Soyl: that our
humour is too free, and arro-* P. 12.
gant: that we are voracious, P. 151.
and luxurious: that we submit
to any, that will fill our Bel- P. 122,
lies, let us rayl, and will not 123.
disturb our slothfulness: that P. 19.
we are scoffers, and malicious
speakers: that we are very ir- P. 112.
regular, and suspicious: that we P. 113.
are fill'd with dark thoughts:
that we are fierce, and capri-
cious

- cious: that we have a melancholy peculiar to us: that if we once get necessaries to support life, our idleness makes us*
- P.19. *careless of any more: that there are every where Doe-littles, proud, and Fanatick Persons*
- P.11. *to be met with: that there is nothing so crouching as an English man, if once you can find the means to make him afraid:*
- P.21. *that if you take away their Insolence, you take away their courage, and that they make but one leap, from the greatest huffe of pride into the basest cowardize.*

He has wearied me, Sir,
and I can follow him no further,
in heaping up such
ignominious Trash. He acknowledges,
that *England is better known than any other
part of the World, by the Britannia of the most Learned Mr. Cambden.*
And it is happy for us that it is so. For, if
Foreiners should have nothing else to direct them
concerning us, but this fair
Idea which he has here given;
I suppose they would travel hither with the same
caution, as we do into *Green-*
F land,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's land, to fish for Whales: they would only touch upon our shores, and stand upon their guard at every noyse, least the wilde *Bears* should surprize them unawares. I intreat you to recall into your mind the description, which *Cæsar* makes of the salvage manners of this *Island*, at the time that he conquered *Gaul* and *Britain* together, you will find that *Monsieur de Sorbiere* is less milde in his expressions on us now, then that great Conqueror was on the untaught and original

original Inhabitants, that liv'd
in Forrests, and painted
their Bodies, to make them
appeare more dreadfull.
Whatever reflections had
been made on our Imper-
fections, we might perhaps
have patiently receiv'd them
from the hands of the *Ma-*
ster of Rome, that had *civi-*
liz'd us; and it may be too
from one of his *Trumpeters*,
so he had been a *Roman*:
But we cannot from a *Schole-*
Master of Orange, from a
Trumpeter of Little Britain,
from a man that came hither

to pick up Presents of
Gloves, and Ribbands, and
(as he himself confesses) to

P. 161, collect some certain debts, that
162. were here owing to his Friends.

When I first, Sir, beheld
all this good language which
he has given us, I did pre-
sently cast about and exa-
mine what might be the
cause of his Rage. And at
last I had from one of his
acquaintance intimation e-
nough to guess, why he was
pleased to be thus incens'd.
When he return'd from his
second visit to the *King*, this
Gentle

Gentleman ask'd him, How his *Majesty* had receiv'd him? he reply'd, *Kindly enough*: but, *he expected, he would have presented him with some Medall.* This, Sir, was the Provocation, And this was the occasion, that made him lay about him so terribly. What Indignation can be great enough against such baseness? Are these *Writers of Letters, and Flatteries, and Romances*, such dangerous men? Must the *King of England* deal with them, as some petty *Bordring Princes*

F 3 are

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
are forc'd to do with the
Turk? Must he buy them
off, and pay tribute to them,
lest they should invade his
Territories at their plea-
sure? *Monsieur de Sorbiere*,
Sir, is a man of ripe Age, he
pretends to have been fami-
liar with *Embassadors*, *Gene-
ralls*, and *Nuntio's*: he lays
claim to the title of *Philoso-
pher*, and to the most gene-
rous Sect of Philosophy, he
tells us *he is a Sceptick*. But
did he ever yet hear of an
Example of a Philosopher,
that preferr'd a petty gift,
before

before the sweetness, and the obligation of so *Great* and so *Magnanimous* a *Prince's* conversation ? It has indeed been told us, that some Philosophers of old have transgress'd on the contrary, and have refused the Bounty of *Monarchs*, that they might preserve the liberty of their minds : But in all *History* there can be no such instance shewn, that a man should forfeit his Truth, and Honesty, for the want of a *Medall*, unless it be of him, that first *renounc'd his Consci-*

F 4 *ence,*

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ence, and chang'd his Reli-
gion, to obtain a Pension.*

In answer to these calumnies with which he has aspersed us, I will onely in plain and simple terms, say as much as may confute his reproaches: But I will not set upon a long, and a solemn *Panegyrick* of our Nation: For it is not my business here to *paint*, but only to *wash*.

The first Slander, of which I shall take notice, he pretends to be a Proverbial-Speech; that *we have de-
spis'd*

*spis'd all the good, and
skimm'd all the bad, of other
people. As for the first part
of it, whether we have
scorn'd all the good quali-
ties of others, I am con-
tent to have try'd by his
own words. He graunts,
that in very many things, we
imitate the magnanimous Spi-
rit of the Antient Romans.*

P. 12.

And if we have been so care-
ful to learn Vertue, from an
Empire that was long ago
at an end: how could he
imagine, that we condemn
all that is commendable in
the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 the Living ? I thank him
 that he has resembl'd us to
 the greatest men of all An-
 tiquity : But in the In-
 stance which he alledges,
 he does well express what
 Sence he has of greatness of
 Mind, and honorable Acti-
 ons : For, *He reckons the*
Fights of their Gladiators to
be one Chief Sign of their Vir-
tue : Which was a cruelty,
 that all the Civil World do
 blame them for besides. I
 will confess *Monseigneur de Sor-*
biere to be a better Master
 of Defence then any *that he*
saw

saw at the Red-Bull, if after P. 172.

this he can prove to Me, that he is a fit Man to distinguish, what is Insolence, and what is Courage, in the *English*; Seeing he counts it to have been a great piece of Bravery in the *Romans*, that they were delighted in beholding their Slaves, and their Captives, murder one another. And whereas he says, *that we are infected with Outlandish-Vices*; I cannot forbear telling him, that if this should be graunted partly true, that we are in
some

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 some measure degenerated
 from the Native Vertue, and
 Innocence of our Ancestors,
 in *Edward the Third*, and
Henry the Fifth's time ; yet
 it is easie to tell, from what
 Coast the Infection was
 transported hither ; and we
 may say with *Horace* in a
 like case, though in respect
 of worse Arts then he inten-
 ded ;

Græcia capta ferum victo-
rem cepit, & Artes
Intulit Agresti Latio.

He

He next objects to us, That
we have a strong union amongst
our selves against Strangers ,
and that it is almost impossible
to get our good will. This ,
Sir, is so far from being true,
that (you know) it may
well be computed, that we
have more Foreiners in
Norwich , Canterbury , and
London, who are permitted
to Trade, and to injoy the
Privilege of *Natives* , then
there are constantly resid-
ing in any *Twenty Cities* of
Italy, Spain, or France.

He upbraids us with fre-
quent

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
quent menacing, and insulting
over our Neighbours. This he
speaks with particular re-
spect to the Hollanders Trade.
But who made him Judge
of the rights of Peace, and
War? He acknowleg'd be-
fore, that all other affairs,
except only those of the Sciences,
and Learned men, lie out of his
way. Why does he then
thrust in to be Arbitrator of
the differences between the
Dutch, and Us? to call those
Menaces and Affronts, which
an Assembly that represents a
mighty Nation, has already
styl'd*

Pref.

styl'd demands of just satisfaction? and which the great *Sovereign* of the *Seas* will shortly make appear to be a Vindication of the Law of *Nations*? But if *Monsieur de Sorbierre* beleives, that our present contentions with the *Low-Countrymen*, are only rude *Affronts*, and not just Grievances; I am certain he was once of another mind, when he writ his *Letter* to *Monsieur de Courcelles* in the year 1652. Wherein he extols the *Rumps* Victories over them, and presages

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
a glorious Empire to those
Tyrants, from their absolute
subduing them.

He says, *that we will not*
vouchsafe to speak to those that
travel hither, and yet he calls
us presumptuous, Raileurs, Ar-
rogant, and Evil-Speakers.
But to this it shall suffice me
to reply, that seeing the same
man condemns our Silence,
and our Speech, it is a good
Argument, that we are mo-
derate, and unblamable in
Both.

He declares, that *We re-*
gard the Prosperity of others
with

with Jealousie : whereas, there is not one of our Neighbors, to whom our Assistance could reach, but we have ayded in their Calamities. The *United Provinces*, notwithstanding their present apprehensions of us , will still confess that their *Common-Wealth* was founded upon *English Valour*. The *Great Henry of France* was establish'd in his Throne by *Queen Elizabeth's* succours. And while I am writing this, the *Portuguez* behold one of the surest Ramparts of their
G Liberty,

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Liberty, to be the Breasts
of English Souldiers.*

He proceeds to affirm,
that we will serve any man, that
will feed us, suffer us to rail,
and be idle. But to give
him a full Testimony, how
careful the *English* are of
their own Liberty, it is e-
nough to say, that they in-
deavor, more then most o-
ther Nations, to preserve in-
violable the freedom of man-
kind in general; For they
never make Slaves of their
Prisoners of War in any part
of *Europe*, which perhaps
few

few other Nations have for-
born. And that the world
has a better opinion of us, he
may be convinc'd by this,
that the Natives of all Tra-
ding-Countries, have still
maintain'd a peculiar re-
spect for the *English* integri-
ty; and that wherever the
Bounds of our Empire have
reach'd in antient Times,
there still remains on the
minds of the people, a Re-
membrance of the easiness
of the *English* Government.
If all this will not satisfy
him, that the *English* are not

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 of a more Servile Dispositi-
 on then other Countries ; I
 will put him upon an Em-
 ployment, which may well
 become his Abilities: Let
 him make a computation of
 the Footmen, Grooms of
 Chambers, and Cooks in
Europe, and then let him tell
 me, whether he finds those of
 the *English Nation* to be the
 most *Numerous*.

He asserts, that *the Eng-
 lish* are suspicious, dark, ir-
 regular, caprichious, and that
 they have a Melancholly pecu-
 liar to themselves. In this,
 methinks

methinks his small Philosophy should have instructed him better, that such dismal qualities are not the necessary Companions of the Complexion of *Angels*, which he allows them. But he that went dauncing from *Paris* to *Calais*, and at *Calais*, as soon as he alighted out of the *Chasse Marin*, could not abstain from going to a Puppet-Play (for that I suppose he means, when he says, he saw a Comedy there) is not a fit man to Censure what is the difference, between what

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 is Fantastical , and good
 Humour, between the Seri-
 ous, and the Sullen. How-
 ever he has made some Re-
 compence to us for this dis-
 grace. He has describ'd
 the Vigorous , and the
 Sprightly Humour of the
French, in such a manner,
 as makes it no very desirable
 Accomplishment. For he
 tells us, *that wherever they*
come, they make such a Noyse,
as to draw all the Children, and
the Dogs in the Town after them.
 And I suppose, it is such a
 kind of *Bruit* as this, that
Monseigneur

P. 16,
 17.

Monsieur de Sorbiere says, he has made in all places, where he arrived.

He often says, that we are all *Idle, Sluggish, and Doe-littles*. Upon this he insists so frequently, that I conceive his *French Readers*, that never saw *England*, will be apt to believe that he found it such a Country as *Lubberland*: that he caught all the Inhabitants stretch'd out on their Backs, and sleeping under Trees. But whence could he gather this conception of our stupidity?

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ty? The places that he vi-
sited, were onely those on
the Road to *Oxford*, and *Lon-*
don, and some few other No-
blemens houses besides. I
hope he did not conclude
our Nation to be so lazy,
from the quiet of the streets,
and the retirement of the
Colleges in the *University*:
yet when I remember what
judgement he made on our
Rudeness at *Dover*, and from
whence he took his conje-
cture, I am likewise inclin'd
to think that he has discreti-
on enough to determine up-
on

on the *English* sluggishness, from the private way of living of our *Scholars*. It must be so, For every where else he beheld many marks of diligence. In his Journey to *London*, he confesses, *It* P. 13. *was admirable to see, what an infinite number of Seamen, and Shipwrights, were at work on the Banks of the Thames.* In *London* it self he reports, that there are more *Shops, and bet-* P. 40. *ter beautified, then in any Citty in the World.* He found every where in *England*, men busie about *Natural Experiments,*
from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
from whose labours he is confi-
dent, mankind may expect pro-
digious Inventions. And are
all these the signs of an over-
grown slothfulness? But be-
sides these, Sir, he never
saw any of the cheif Seats of
the *English* Industry, he be-
held not the *Cole-pits* of *New*
Castle, the *Clothworks* of the
West, and the *North*, the *Lead*
Mines of *Derby*, the *Orchards*
of *Hereford*, the *Plough-lands*
of *Devon*, the *New Rivers* of
the *Fenns*, the *Tinn Mines* of
Cornwall. These, and many
more, he should have view'd;
he

he should thence have passed into our *Western Colonies*: he should have considered the *Sugar works* of the *Barbadoes*, the *Tobacco Plantations* of *Virginia*, the *Silk Trade* that is begun there, and the *Vast Mole*, which goes on at *Tangier*, that *pittifull place* (as he terms it:) after all these surveys he might have been a fitter Judge of the *English* labours. This exactness of Information might have been expected from an *Historiographer Royal*. But he has been as carefull in this,

P.175.
as

as in most of the rest of his Intelligence. For as soon as ever he sets his foot on the *English* shore, he strait positively condemns all the whole Nation of laziness, from the first Posthorse that he saw gallop.

P. 10.

His last disgrace is the *English* cowardize. And the occasion from whence he takes this Observation is very remarkable, He saw an Oxford Scholar affronted by a Frenchman that had been seven years the *Protectors* soldier: And thence He passes sentence on
the

P. 21.

the baseness of our Nation.
What, Sir, will the *Dutch* and
the *Spaniards* think of this?
The one, when they remem-
ber the Battels of *Portland*,
and the *Northforland*; and
the other, when they call to
mind *Tenariff*, and the *sandy*
hills of Dunkirk? Will they
not take it very ill at his
hands, that he should reckon
all those for *Cowards*, whom
Cromwells Soldiers had de-
feated? But if our late civil
Warrs have not given an un-
confutable evidence of the
English valour: if the mag-
nanimous

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
unanimous Deaths of so many
Martyrs for the Royall
Cause do not prove it : If
Eighty Eight : if the Im-
mortal Sir Richard Greenville,
if our Conquests of Ireland,
and Scotland be forgotten :
if the joynt Testimony of al-
most all the Historical Wri-
ters for these last six hun-
dred years be of no ac-
count : yet (to say no more)
I could never have believ'd
that any French Historiogra-
pher would have given it un-
der his hand, that the En-
glish are Cowards.

And

And now, Sir, having laid all these Ignominies together, would you not have guess'd that he would never have dar'd, to pronounce so boldly upon us, unless he had convers'd all his Life time with us; unless he had throughly studied our Temper, and deeply pierc'd by a long search into the Composition of our Nature? But when I find, that *as soon as ever he was call'd Monsieur by the Children of Dover, he strait makes Conclusion of our general Inhospitallity: and of*
our

Observations en Mr. Sorbier's
our Insolence from the next Car-
rier that he employ'd : and of
our Abusiveness, from a silly
Zealander, that was his fel-
low-Traveller : and of our
want of Courage, from a piti-
ful Fray between a naked scho-
lar, and an armed French
Souldier, at Beaconsfield. This
puts me in mind of the
Judgment, which one of the
greatest men that ever liv'd,
did passe on the *Antient*
Gaules. It was the expe-
rience of *Cæsar* himself, of
their trifling, and change-
able Humour, that *in their*
most

most solemn Councils, they determin'd on the weightiest Affairs, upon the Authority of any slender Report of the next wandring Pedlar. This I hope I may repeat, without offending the present *French Nation*. For I do not say, (as *Monsieur de Sorbiere* of us) *That it came from the Nature of their Soyl*, and that therefore it must needs descend on all that are born on the same Earth. But I only affirm, that I know a certain *French Trumpeter*, that has made good this

H Obser-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Observation of *Cæsars.*

This, Sir, being the Form, which he has fanci'd in his Brain of the wild *Manners* of the *Engliſh*, it is eaſie to gueſs, what thoughts he has of their *Religion*. And the Truth is, having represented us, as ſuch Monſters, in our Civil Customs, and Behaviour, he could do no other, then paint us out to be as bad as Infidels, in our Spiritual Condition. For whoſoever are Barbarous in their Lives, can never be good
Chriſtians

Christians in their Hearts. It is the peculiar glory of the True *Christianity*, that it does not onely Save, but Civilize, its Reall Professours.

We shall therefore find, that his reproaches are proportionable, concerning our *Religion*. And by the Irreverence of the Language which he uses towards it, you may perceive, that he did not only learn from the Trooper that was his Companion to Oxford, that the *English* are Insolent, and Co-

H 2 wards :

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's words : But that he also furnish'd him with this Intelligence of *Church*. For this account, which he has here set down, could have been given by no man Living so properly, as by *one that had*

P.21. *been a Soldier in Cromwell's Army.* To pass by the friendly names of *Schismaticks*, and *Hereticks*, which he as freely bestows upon us as if they were our National Titles : he has ventur'd to say, that

P.45. *We separated from the Church of Rome for shameful causes, that are known to all the World :*

World : that the people has an P.43.
universal Aversion from the
Religion establiſh'd by Law :
that there is a probability, that P.44.
all our Sects may ſhortly unite
to deſtroy it : that our ſolemn
Publique Prayers are only a P.43.
Morſel of a Liturgy : that P.44.
the King did the moſt hazard-
ous thing he could undertake,
when he reſtor'd Episcopacy :
that our Eccleſiaſtical Govern- P.44.
ment is nothing elſe, but the
Shaddow, and the Corruption
of the true Hierarchy : that P.45.
the Introduktion of our Church-
Service into Scotland, was the
H 3 *cauſe*

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
cause of the shedding of so much
Blood in the three Nations :*

- P. 53. that our chief Clergy men, who
have Pluralities of Benefices,
make their Grooms their Cu-
rats : that our Bishops do
P. 52. horribly abuse their Jurisdicti-
on, in their Excommunicati-
ons, and Impositions : that
P. 53. they are so haughty, that none
of the Inferiour Priests dare
speak to them : that they rob
P. 62, the Church, by letting its Lea-
63. ses for thirty years ; getting all
the Money into their own
Pockets, and leaving only a
small Revenue to their Suc-
cessours :

cessours: that England is a P.63.

*Country, where no man is a-
fraid of committing Simony.*

This, Sir, is his Judgment
of our *Church*. And you
may be pleas'd to observe,
that this Catalogue of Slan-
ders is equally made up of
those, which the most furi-
ous of the *Romanists* on the
one side, and the most *Fa-
natick* amongst the *Non-con-
formists* on the other, are
wont to Revile us withall:
So that in repeating them,
he does at once act both the
Parts, which he had before

H 4 plaid

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
plaid in the World at several times, that of a violent Calvinist, and a Jesuitical Papist.

And first, it is false that our English Reformation began upon a shamefull occasion, or from the extravagance of a private passion. I know he has the famous story of King Henry's Divorce to oppose against what I say. But I am not startled at that, no more then at the *Fable* of our Bishops Consecration at the *Naggs-head Tavern*; or, of the *Kentish-mens* having long

long Tayls for the murder of *Thomas Becket*. Such frivolous Arguments as these might have served well enough in the Mouths of the *Moncks* two hundred years agoe : But they will not pass so easily in a Philosophical, and Inquisitive Age. In breif therefore, Sir, it is evident that *King Henry the Eighth* did never intend to proceed to a much greater distance from the *Roman See*, then the *Gallican Church* maintains at this day. There is no man of our *Church*, that
looks

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
looks upon his breach with
the *Pope*, to have been a *Re-*
formation. We onely esteem
it to be of the nature of
those Quarrels, which many
Princes in the most *Catholick*
Countries, have manag'd a-
gainst the *Holy Chair*. The
Reformation to which we
stand is of a latter date. The
Primitive Reformers amongst
us, beheld the Reason of
men tamely subjected to one
mans Command, and the
Sovereign Powers of all
Christendom still expos'd to
be check'd, and destroy'd
by

by the Resolutions of his private Will. Upon this they arose to perform two of the greatest Works in the World, at once to deliver the minds of Christians from Tyranny, and the Dignity of the Throne from Spiritual Bondage. Whatever was the accidental, this was the Real Cause of our first *Reformation*, and of their separation from us, not ours from them. And this was an event which must needs have come to pass near the time in which it did, though
King

King Henry had never forsaken his Wife. Let him therefore know, that our *Doctrine* (as much spoyl'd as it is, in his opinion) was establish'd by *Christ* and his *Apostles*: and that the Ceremonies of our Worship, were not set up by faction, or by popular Fury, but by the deliberate Counsels of Wisemen, and by the authority of that power, which bears the immediate Image of *God*. This, Sir, I have said in Vindication of our *Church*, not so much to fatisfie this idle Dreamer

Dreamer upon *Parnassus*, as out of the love which I bear to many well-meaning *Catholiques* amongst us, who have this Argument sometimes in their mouths, of whom I know very many, whose wishes for the happiness of their Country, and for its freedom from foreign Usurpations, are as honourable as any *Englishmens* living. As for *Monsieur de Sorbier's* part, it had been a sufficient Reply to him, that I can name a man, who has indeed *separated from the Religion*

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ligion wherein he was born, for
a shamefull cause which is
known to all the World.*

He declares that *the people
of England have an universal
aversion from the establiſh'd
Worſhip.* But here I cannot
ſay that of him for which he
commends *Doct^r Wallis*, that
P. 100. *He is one of the beſt Account-
ants in the World.* This po-
ſitive Computation he ne-
ver was in any capacity to
make, he never ſaw any of
the middle, or the remoter
parts of our Nation, where
Non-conformity is but very
ſpa-

sparingly spread. He never convers'd with the vast Body of Gentry, and Yeomanry that live Country lives, who are generally uninfected. It is *London* alone on which he must rely for this calculation. And yet even in this too, I dare openly assure him, that the farr greater number is for the Rights of the Church, then against them. But I advise *Monsieur de Sorbier*e, that before he thinks himself able to make an exact judgment of the Number of our Religious

gious Sects, he would first correct all his errours in *Arithmetick*, which are to be found in this Book, about the most obvious things, in reckoning of which, it was enough to have onely had the understanding of the least childe that he ever taught. I will onely produce one in this place. Have we not reason to rely upon his opinion of the difference of the parties in the whole Kingdom; when in the least number that can be, he has mistaken half: For, he says, that

that *the double-bottom'd Vessel*
has two Masts in the Front,
when every *Sculler* on the
Thames knows it has but
One.

He affirms, that *the Go-*
vernment of our Bishops is no-
thing else, but the shadow,
and the corruption of a True
Hierarchy. And he gives this
excellent Reason for it, be-
cause here *the Spiritual sub-*
mits to the Temporal. This ve-
ry Argument I will turn up-
on himself. It is therefore
the True, the Sound, the
Apostolical Episcopacy: be-
I cause

P.44.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
cause it does yield to the Tem-
poral Power, which else could
be nothing but a shadow. It
is the glory of the Church of
England, that it never re-
sisted Authority, nor in-
gag'd in Rebellion : which
is a praise, that makes much
to its advantage, in the
minds of all those, who have
read of the dismal effects of
the Scotch Covenant, and the
holy League.*

*He says, that our King did
put himself on the most dange-
rous Enterprize that could be
attempted, when he restored
Episcopacy.*

Episcopacy. And yet he confesses that *our other Sects are inconsistent with any Government but a Common-wealth.*

P.58.

What dreadfull danger could be imagin'd in a *Monarchs* destroying that, which must needs fall of it self in a *Monarchy*? But to shew how much he was mistaken, It is evident, that upon his *Majesty's* most glorious Return, the *Church* soon recover'd all its rights of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, of sitting in Parliament, and even all its Lands, which had

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
been long held by Armed
Usurpers, without any o-
ther Opposition, then what
was made by *General Vennor*,
and his forty men: who it
seems did *run the greatest*
bazard of the two.

He declares that *there is*
so great a distance between our
Bishops, and our inferior Cler-
gy, that these dare not speak
to, nor stand cover'd before,
them. This, Sir, you and I
can prove to be a manifest
Untruth, by several Instan-
ces. But however, what
course can we take to please
this

this grave Censurer of our Civility? *He here dislikes the respects, that we shew to our cheif Churchmen: and in another place, He condemns the familiar behaviour of our common Soldiers towards their Officers. He abuses the Clergymen for standing bare to those Reverend and Aged Persons; and the Red-Coats for keeping on their Hatts in the presence of their Captains.* How sufficient a Judge is he of good manners, that would bring the rude Customs of a *Camp* into the *Church*, and the Pun-

P.122.

118 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
Ætlio's of Observance, and
Courtship, into an *Army*.

But he accuses us of a
greater Crime. It is but just
that there should be so great
a distance, if our *Clergymen*
that have *Pluralities*, make
their *Grooms* supply their *Cures*.
In this part of his Character
he certainly, Sir, mistook the
Country, and intended this
for some other *Kingdom* in
Europe, where he had also
mish'd of a *Medall*. It is a
sign that he is as little ac-
quainted with his own
Church, as he is with ours :

or else he would never have
objected to us our Pluralities,
which are infinitely fewer,
and more confin'd amongst
us: he would never have
ventur'd to *upbraid us with*
the Ignorance of our Parish
Priests, lest we should have
provok'd the whole *Church*
of Rome to a comparison. In
breif, Sir, our *Slaves* do not
serve at our *Altars*: and I
will also add, that our *Chief*
Spiritual Dignities are not in-
tayl'd upon *Families*, nor
possess'd by *Children*. In all
the *Parishes of England*; I

I 4 dare

dare challenge not onely him that is a Stranger, but the most bitter Enemies to our Discipline, to shew me *Twenty Pulpits*, that are fill'd with men, who have not spent their Youth in Studies to prepare them, and who have not the *Authority of Holy Orders*.

That *He has presun'd to call our Publique Solemn Prayers, only a Morsel, or a Scrap of a Liturgy*; I do not much wonder. For he that has long made his own *Religion his Cook* (as one of our

our Poets expresse it) may well be thought irreligious enough ; to take a *Metaphor* for ours from a Kitchen. But besides this, he asserts, that *the Introduction of the English Liturgy into Scotland, was the cause of the shedding of all the Blood in the three Nations.* This Speech might have well fitted the mouth of *Bradshaw*, or the Pen of *Ireton*. For it lays all the guilt of so much Slaughter, on the most Innocent, and most merciful *Prince*, that ever wore a Crown: by
whose

whose special care, an Uniformity of Worship was attempted in that *Kingdome*. But to give him better light, and to let him see, that there were other Causes of our Miseries, in one of these three Countries at least, I would fain have him ask this Question of the *Pope's Legat* that was in *Ireland*, whether the horrible *Irish Massacre* was committed for no other reason, but only out of a tender Brotherly sense of the Yoke which was laid by the *Common-Prayer*, on the
the

the Scotchmen's Consciences.

He tells us, that *it is an ordinary thing with our Bishops, to exercise their Ecclesiastical Censures upon frivolous accounts.* But methinks he might have remembred, that it was not probable, they should seek out any trifling occasions of excommunication, when, by his own confession, they have so many weighty Provocations: if that be true, that *the whole Nation neglects their Discipline.* But, Sir, you know it is apparent to all indifferent

rent Men, that the *Bishops* have been most remarkably moderate in their *Visitations*; and that the Punishments, which have been inflicted on the Obstinate, have for the most part proceeded from the *Temporal* Sword, and not the *Spiritual*. But, because he here quarrels at the Absoluteness of our *Bishop's* power, I leave him to be answer'd by the whole *Clergy* of the *Church* of *Rome*, who ought to be alarm'd by this. For if ours shal be reputed so Tyrannical, what will they

they be esteem'd, whose Jurisdiction is so much larger ?

He goes on to defame our Bishops. He says, *they have imbezled the Church Lands, to make their own Families Rich.* This, Sir, is an Objection, which though it was at first manag'd against them with great Clamour, by the common Enemies of the *King*, and the *Church*: yet now upon a calmer consideration of things, it has universally lost its credit, even in those places where he says, *the English take Tobacco*

P. 130.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
bacco half the day together ;
from whence he acknowledges ,
that he had a good part of his
Relations. The first mur-
murs against them were
rais'd, because they receiv'd
altogether , some part of
that which was their due ,
for twenty years before. But
the Envy of that was quick-
ly scatter'd, when it was ma-
nifest how many publique ,
and Generous works they
have promoted. Besides
the first Fruits, and Tenths,
and above all the Subsidies,
which have swept away

a good part of their gains ,
they have compounded with
a very great Number of the
Purchasers ; they have in-
creas'd the Vicaredges in
their Gift to Fourſcore
Pounds a year : they have
indow'd Alms-Houſes, and
Colleges , they have built
Chappels, they have re-
paired the Epifcopal Pala-
ces, and Cathedrals , which
were generally gone to Ru-
ine ; they have redeem'd
at once all the *English*, that
were Slaves at *Algiers*, and
that too I dare aſſure him ,
without

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
without any intent to make Cu-
rats of them.*

The Account which he
gives of their letting Leases is
most ridiculous. There
is no man amongst them,
that lets a Lease for thirty years.
The Reserv'd Rent is that
which was always the stand-
ing Revenue of the Church.
Nor ought this Custom to
be Objected against the
Church of England. It is
the same course which is ta-
ken in France, and most o-
ther parts of Christendom.
Nay, to go farther, the letting
of

of *Church Leases* is a business, whose Regulation was brought about since the time, that the *Church* of *Rome* divided from us. Before *Queen Elizabeth's* reign, the *Churchmen* had a power of Farming out their Lands, not only for *Thirty*, but for *Ninety Nine* years. It was *Shée*, that first confin'd the Term to *One* and *Twenty*; and so it still remains. He ought not therefore to reckon this practice as our disgrace: when the good order, that is now us'd about it, is the peculiar

K

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
culiar honour, that belongs
to the *English Reformation*.

But to Conclude, if *no*
Man fears Simony in England,
then there is no man that is
affrighted with punishment.
For our Laws are as strict
against it , and as severely
executed, as any where else.
However, if it were true ,
(which is far from being
so) that we Simoniacally
imploy the Church estate to
Secular uses ; yet this sounds
very ill from that *Layman's*
Pen , who , when he writ
this Voyage , was main-
tain'd

tain'd out of the *Ecclesiastical Revenue*. This, Sir, was *Monsieur de Sorbier's Case*. And the first Office of a *Churchman* that ever he perform'd, was in this Book, where *He devoutly prays to God, to make Mr. Hobbs a Roman Catholique*. Which if his prayers can obtain from Heaven, he deserves not only to be made a *Priest*, or *Bishop*, but even a *Saint* too: For this will be a far greater *Miracle*, then any of those for which many have been *Canoniz'd*.

P. 99.

K 2

And

And now, Sir, can you require any greater signs of *Monsieur de Sorbier's* Sincerity in his *Religion*? He has accus'd of *Simony*, the most Incorrupt: of *Pride*, the Humblest: of *Rapacity*, the most Innocent: of *Ignorance*, the most Learned: of false Doctrine, the most Primitive; of ill Discipline, the most Decent *Church* under Heaven. And when nothing else could be said, he even *upbraids* it with its *Submission and Obedience*, To shew, (that he is as ill a Disciple

sciple of *Mr. Hobbes's*, whom he pretends to admire, as he is of the Apostles.) Notwithstanding all which impudent Disgraces, there remains this one comfort to the *Church of England*, that the same man, who now vilifies Her so basely, had once as mean thoughts of the *God-Head* of Her blessed *Founder* Himself.

But it is easie to conjecture at the Cause of this his harsh Usage of our *Church*. He had but lately Apostatiz'd from the *Reformed Religion*

K 3

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ligion in France : he was but
just enter'd into the *Romish*
Communion. And he sus-
pected , that there might
be some doubts still remain-
ing on mens minds , of the
Reality of his Conversion ,
which might turn to the
prejudice not onely of his
Spiritual, but of his Tem-
poral Estate : he had given
himself out for a great *Phi-*
losopher : and he understood
well enough, that few *Phi-*
losophers are thought to al-
ter their minds, that have
once been *Protestants*. He
was

was therefore resolv'd to give an Unquestionable proof of his Establishment in the Faith, by reviling *the Church of England*. And in performing this, I confess, Sir, he has Counterfeited the Zealot very well: he has prosecuted Us, with all the Violence, and Bigottry, which commonly accompanies new Converts. But yet I beleive this will hardly do his business. Even in this very Book, he gives Evidence enough, that *Calvinism*, and *Herésie*, are not
K 4 wholly

wholly rooted out 'of his Heart. He grossly abuses the most devoted Children of the *Church of Rome*, the *English Roman Catholiques*. He complains of them, *that they have no mind to disturb the Peace of their Country towards the restoration of their Religion* : which is indeed spoken to their Honour, though he intends it to their Shame. He says, *that they are not so zealous in their Way, as forein Papists*, the quite contrary to which is true : he makes, *as if they never saw*

saw the True Maß perform'd :
he affirms, *that they are all* P.64.
born in Servitude, and de-
bases so many Antient, Rich,
and Honourable Families,
to the condition, and the
minds, of *Slaves*. In all
these Speeches, he does not
express any certain mark of
a True Profelyte. But a-
bove all, he has set down
such a determination of his
Faith, that if he had made
it in *Italy*, or *Spain*, he had
undoubtedly fallen into the
Inquisition. He boldly pro-
nounces, that *Transubstan-*
tiation,

138
P.48.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
tiation, Purgatory, the Me-
rit of Works, Invocation of
Saints, the Supremacy of the
Bishop of Rome, the authori-
ty of Councils, and the Infal-
libility of the Pope, are none
of them Fundamental Do-
ctrines. What greater A-
pology could be made for
the Church of England,
which he has so much
defam'd: seeing these are
the onely shameful Causes,
for which we dissented from
Rome?*

But I leave him to be cor-
rected by the Pope's Sen-
tence

tence for these Heresies :
which perhaps the Holy Fa-
ther has reason to think, do
more shake the Holy Chair,
then the five points of *Jan-
senius* that he condemn'd :
which Monsieur de Sorbiere
says, *did raise a dispute about* P.60.
a matter of Nothing.

From our *Religion*, Let
us follow him to our *Govern-
ment*. And here, Sir, I
was at first a little at a stand
how to deal with him. But
I have heard of the Magna-
nious resolution of the
late

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's late Duke of Buckingham, who would never permit any Apology to be written for him. And I consider, that it is almost as great an arrogance for one obscure Writer, to undertake to defend the Actions of Great Princes, as it is for another to defame them. I will not therefore inlarge my Speech in the praises of the present happiness of England, or in paying all the acknowledgements, which are due to our Sovereign, for the blessings of His Reign. That is

a Subject fitter for a more elaborate Volum, then a single Letter , and for a far more elegant Pen then mine. I will onely here shew the Vanity of our *Historiographers* groundless suggestions. And as an Introduction to what he says , concerning the *Political* condition of this *Nation* , I will first observe how he deals with some others of the cheif *Crown'd Heads* in *Europe*. You will perhaps, Sir, be very hardly induc'd to believe, that he can be guilty

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ty of disrespect to *Monarchy*,
or *Sovereign Princes*, when
you behold him so Panegy-
rically given towards that
Government, as to take the
pains, to go five or six thou-
sand miles, to find out a
Race of *Kings* to commend.
For he here speaks very zea-
lously in praise of the most
vertuous, and most religious
Kings of China. This, Sir, I
cannot but applaud in him;
and to shew how much this
one testimony of his good
manners has wrought with
me, I will not be harsh up-
on

P. 117,
118.

on him in this place. I will not call in question the credit of his Intelligence from the farthest East, which you see is so false, about a Country, that lies only *seven Leagues distant* from his own. Nay, I will not so much as inquire whether ever he met with any *Chinese Madam Fiennes* to give him P. 118. *this Information.* I will graunt, that the *Kings of China* have been great *Menders of Bridges, and Planters of Orchards.* But I will only now softly put him in mind

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
mind, that while his Pen
did overflow with sweet
words, upon the *Kings* of
China, he has handled the
Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark*
more cruelly, then *Dionysius*
the Tyrant would have
done, when he was a *King*,
much less when he was a
Schole-Master.

Of the two last *Kings* of
Sweden he affirms, that ~~their~~
P. 116. *Glory is almost wholly vanish'd:*
and that all moderate men must
needs read the Desolations,
which they caus'd with Horror.
You see, Sir, what an excel-
lent

lent occasion he has here given me of Triumpling over him. You know very well, how many great, and irresistible arguments, this matter might suggest to me: what might not be said of that *Victorious Nation*? how copious might I be in extolling the indefatigable Industry, the Conduct, the Good Fortune, the Generosity of those *Kings*? What Passions might here be rais'd, in appealing to all Mankind, and in aggravating the common misery of

L

all

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
all Great Commanders of
Armies, if it shall be per-
mitted to every small Pam-
phleteer to invade their
Lives, and to arraign their
Ashes, when he pleases?
But there is no need of go-
ing so powerfully to work,
or of employing against him
any of the Lofty, and Tra-
gical Forces of Eloquence.
It will suffice, if I recall to
his Memory, the Title in
which he boasts so much.
I will only ask him, how the
Historiographer of France can
assert the Wars of *Gustavus*
Adolphus

Adolphus to have been horrible Divastations; without casting some share of the Dishonor on the *Crown* of *France* it self ? For (if we will believe all the *French* Writers of that time) there was a strict Confederacy, and a real Union of Interests, between those Two mighty Monarchs. I give him leave to use the Fame of the *Kings* of *Sweden* as he pleases. Let them in his account pass for Theives, and Oppressors. They deserve so to be us'd : for they were mor-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
tal Enemies to that belov'd
Country, with whose *Musick*,
and *Latin*, and *Dancing*, he
was before so much *ravish'd*.
I only bid him look back
on the relation, which *Lewis*
the *Just* had to *Lewis* the
Fourteenth, and then let him
try to vindicate himself for
overturning the *Trophies*
of the *Father*, in the same
Book, wherein he declares,
that *He travell'd abroad in a*
Waggon, to spread the glo-
ry of the Son.

But the Fame of those
dead Princes is plac'd above
the

the reach of his Envy: let us, Sir, consider how he behaves himself towards the living. What a long Story (or rather, as he himself styles it, *Romance*) has he here made, of the life of Uleselt the Dane, on which he builds the justification of his Crimes, and condemns the King of Denmark's Justice? And yet at the same time he acknowledges, that He took the whole Relation, only from the Mouth of Uleselt's own Wife. After this, have the Kings of China any great reason to be

proud of this Mans good will? when he has here express'd no more Judgment, nor Integrity, then from the single and partial Information of a Woman, to acquit a man that had been hang'd *in Effigie* in *Denmark*, and has been since kill'd as he was pursued for High Treason?

Upon the sight of all this, Sir, I may well return securely Home, to examine his opinion of the Imperfections of our State. And here I must not forget to acquaint

acquaint you, that he is not all over Satyrical; But in several places he sprinkles some few kind words to our advantage. Yet his Com-mendations are so directly contrary to his reproaches; that instead of reconciling me to him, they rather supply me with new arguments against him. And who can desire an easier Adversary to deal with, then such a one, who, when he speaks against us, opposes evident Truth, when he speaks for us, contradicts himself?

L 4 This

This Inconsistence of his own mind with it self, is apparent in this *Political* part of his *Relation*, which now comes under my Censure : He confesses, *Our King to be*
P. 123. *one of the best Princes in the World*: He declares, that *His Majesty us'd him with all imaginable sweetness, and that by the Charms of His Discourse,*
P. 120. *he sent him away as well pleas'd, as if he had loaded him with his Presents.* I intreat you now, Sir, to recollect, how this, and that which follows hangs together.

First,

First, He suggests , *that perhaps there was not so much pretence for the people to rebel in the late Kings time, as there is at this present.* In the reply which I shall make to this Passage, I cannot, Sir, confine my self to the bare limits of a satisfactory Answer : but I must permit my Zeal for the Prosperity of our Country , to break forth into Expressions of Joy, and Gratitude. It is fit that all the World should know, that as our *King* was restor'd with the most miraculous

P.124.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
culous submission of minds,
and interests, that ever any
History can shew : as he was
establiſh'd on the Throne of
his *Ancestors* , while there
were two mighty Armies on
Foot, that had fought against
him and his *Father* : ſo there
can be no difficulty in con-
tinuing this quiet, now he
has all the power of the Na-
tion in his hands, and now
his Enemies are ſcattered,
and diſarm'd (if yet he
can be thought to have any
real Enemies, after ſo ma-
ny Heroick Testimonies of
his

his Mercy) The condition of all his affairs abroad is in such a posture, in respect of his Neighbors, that he is as far from being lyable to receive Injuries unreveng'd, as he is averse in his own disposition from doing wrongs unprovok'd. And the small dissentions that still remain on some of his Subjects minds at home, are so far from hazarding the safety, that they will rather make for the Honor of his *Reign*. For by his renew'd and generous indeavors towards

wards the composing of these differences, there will arise for him a continued succession of Peaceful Triumphs, of which the occasions had been wanting to him, if he had found us all of one mind. And many such Victories as these, we may justly presage to our *Sovereigns* future Government. The Forces which he employs against those few that are still contumacious, which are those of Affability, and Forgiveness, are impossible to be resisted.

Who

Who ever contends with his Adversaries with those weapons, he has not only his own Virtues, but theirs on his side. And as these are the surest Conquests, so they are of the greatest renown. In the Triumphs of Warr, his Souldiers, his Commanders, and even Fortune it self, would come in for a share in the Fame: But those which are obtain'd by pity, and by pardoning, have no Partners in the honor, but are wholly to be attributed to the *King* himself.

But

But for a proof of our calm and well-secur'd condition, I appeal from this Triflers Conjectures, to the *Parliament* it self, which is the true Representative of the Affections of the whole Kingdom. If he would have been willing to refer the matter to their decifion, he might have found all things so free from any likelihood of new disturbances, that they have been still as inclin'd to be severe against the *Kings* ill-willers, as he himself has been to be gentle :

gentle : and as sollicitous to guard his *Royal Person*, with their lives and fortunes, as he has been carefull, that he might need no other defence, but his own *goodness*.

Yet since he is resolv'd not to stand to the determination of that *great Assembly*, which he modestly terms *an extravagant Body*, let us P. 130. see what reports he has pick'd up amongst the malcontents of the *Vulgar* : He says, that *they every where complain of the neglect of the interest*

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
interest of Trade, of the mis-
spending of the Treasure, of
the oppressions of the Court,
and of the decrease of our
glory at Sea.*

P.130. All this, Sir, he professes
to take from the murmurs of
the multitude. And if they
are guilty of such discour-
ses, more then the Commu-
nalty of other Countries,
they justly deserve the Ti-
tles that he gives them, of a
*suspicious, a sullen, an insolent,
and an envious Generation.*
But then, Sir, if the mean
and ignorant people ought
so

so much to be condemn'd
for upbraiding their Go-
vernors, though they only
do it in private, when they
are heated with drink, and
under the protection of a
cloud of Tobacco smoak: what P.130.
punishment does that *Hi-
storian* deserve, who thought
good to collect their dis-
contents, and to make him-
self worse then the Au-
thors of them, by being the
first that reports them in
this publick way? What
credit could he expect to
get, by repeating these low
doings

M . scan-

scandalls , when it was dishonourable for him only to confess, that he came into such places, and companies, where he might over-hear them ? This Reprehension, Sir, he ought to have undergone, if all this that he relates had been true : But if we take it in pieces , we shall find that he libells the very Suburbs, and that his ink is black enough to represent the worst slanders of the Rabble , in darker colours than their own.

As for the repinings
which

which he heard concerning
the diminution of Trade: You
know, Sir, that it is the
publique, and the cheerfull
voice of all *Englishmen*, that
are engag'd in Traffick, that
there have been farr more
incouragements for Mer-
chants, and more vigorous
attempts for the advance-
ment of Commerce, within
these four years and half,
then in many ages before.
I might for a proof of this
allege the *Royal Council*, that
is particularly set up for
that purpose. I might in-

M 2 stance

stance in the increase of the Customs, which from thirty or forty thousand pounds in the latter end of *Queen Elizabeth's* Reign, do now amount to almost four hundred thousand a year. I might urge all the *Proclamations* for the prohibiting of foreign Manufactures, and for the improvement of our own: I might reckon up the many new *Statutes* for the repairing of *Havens*, the mending of *Highwaies*, and the cutting of *Rivers*: But it is enough only

to mention the Institution
of the *Royal Fishing*, and
the *Royal Company*: In both
which our *King* has prof-
perously begun a Designe,
which will infallibly make
the *English* the Masters of
the Trade of the world ;
and that is the bringing in
of our *Gentry*, and *Nobility*,
to contribute towards it.
When this shall be brought
about , not all the little
Crafts of the *Hollanders*,
(which he magnifies so
much) will serve their turn :
But the *English* will outgo
M 3 them

P.151,

152,

153.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
them in Industry, and Stock,
as much as they do already
in Shoars, in Ports, in Ships,
in Valour, in Vertue. This,
Sir, we shall undoubtedly
live to see accomplish'd, see-
ing the *Gentlemen of Eng-
land* have so great an Ex-
ample before them ; of a
King, who does not only
make the Arts of Com-
merce and Navigation his
business, and his interest,
but his very delight and re-
creation.

What he says of *our*
Treasure, is most impudent-
ly

ly objected against that Prince, who has retrench'd himself in those expences which his Predecessors maintain'd, when the Revenue of the Crown was farr less. And he chose a very unseasonable time, to *pro-* P.132.
claim, that the Blood-suckers of the Court devour the people, when those Blood-suckers have parted with their very Food, and the antient Dues of their Offices, to lessen the charge of the Publique. But his loudest outcrie concerns *the loss*

P. 130. *of our Dominion at Sea.* And here he most invidiously compares the times of the *Rump*, with our present *Naval Power*. First of all, he might have understood, that the *Fleets* which were then set forth against the *Dutch* did mainly consist of the late *Kings Ships* ; and also that the whole *Estates of the Crown*, the *Clergy*, most of the *Nobility*, and *Gentry*, and indeed well nigh of the whole *Nation* were then at the *Usurpers* disposal. From hence he might have concluded,

cluded, that even the Glory of their Victories is not so much to be given to the Riches and Interest of *Scott*, *Hasilrig*, or *Vane*, as to the Treasures of the *King*, and the *Royal Party*. But besides this, Sir, What will he be able to answer me, when I shall tell him, that our *King* has made our Sea-provisions far stronger then ever they were in any Age or Countrey before; and that too only by the help of a Revenue bounded by Law, and limited to the strict

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
strict Rules of Justice ? of
the truth of this, he might
speedily have been con-
vinc't, if he had visited any
one of our *Royal Stores*, in-
stead of describing *Smith-*
field, *Bedford Garden*, the
Conduits of London, *More-*
fields, *Hatfield Fishponds*, and
St Catharines College in Ox-
ford. Never was there a
greater abundance of Ma-
terialls in readiness ! Ne-
ver more skillfull Builders !
Never more formidable
Preparations ! Never more
expert Seamen ! Never
more

more valiant Commanders!
and, in one word to perfect
all, never a *Braver Admiral!*
An *Admiral* of whose un-
daunted courage, unwearied
diligence, and fortunate
Conduct, all the Nations
round about us have be-
held so many unquestiona-
ble proofs, even from the
very first years of his
youth. And if I thought
that all the men of Honor,
wherewith *France* now a-
bounds, were not yet satis-
fied how little *Monsieur de*
Sorbiere deserves to be *Histo-*
riographer

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
riographer Royal, I would de-
fire no other instance to
prove it, then only this;
that when he declares he
came into England, to con-
tent his curiosity, to see all
the rare things, and men a-
mongst us, yet he scarce
mentions the Duke of York.*

Præf.

I will admit that hither-
to he has only recited the
extravagancies of the Rab-
ble; let us now, Sir, come
to that place, wherein he
has chiefly exercised the
profoundness of his skill,
*his own speculations, on the
defects*

defects of our Monarchy, and the *Factions* of our Court. And that you may know how conversant he has been in all intrigues of *State*, as well as those of the *Muses*, I will give you his positive determination of one of the gravest points of Policy that ever was debated at a Council Table ; and it shall be in his own words, to his intimate Friend *Monsieur de Vaubrun*. To you *Monsieur de Vaubrun* (says he) being my Bosome Friend, a man that esteems me much, and one whom

P. 116,

117.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
whom I honour infinitely, being
also a Gentleman, that loves
justice, as well as fighting; I
will reveal the bottom of my
heart, and tell you the most
secret of all my thoughts.*

P.93.

What weighty matter does
he introduce with this so-
lemne Preface? He com-
plains that *the learned men
of the English are not enough
communicative.* Certainly
we shall find him of a bet-
ter temper: No doubt he
will now unfold some new
Principle of *Policy*, and of
the *Laws of Humane Socie-*
ty,

ty, which he has discover'd,
that is not yet ripe for the
publique, and only fit to be
committed to the trust of a
particular confident. It
proves so indeed! The Ora-
cle w^{ch} he immediately pro-
nounces, is this: *That Man* P. 171.
*was not made by Nature to
fight with Man, but rather to
injoy the Benefits of peace:
that God has not given us
horns, hoofs, or claws; but*

Os homini sublime dedit.

This, Sir, is all the migh-
ty Mystery, of which he
discharges his breast with
so

so much Ceremony. And in which is he now more ridiculous, his *History*, or his *Policy*? His *History*, in speaking so many false reproaches aloud; his *Policy*, in whispering such trifles with so much caution. I beseech you, Sir, let us allow him the reputation of this new invention intire. Though he did not think fit to name the *famous Author* of the *Lunar Globe*, which he saw in the *Kings Closet*: Yet I intend to be juster to him: And I will propose
this

this *Epitaph* to be grav'd
on his Tomb ; *Hic jacet*
primus Author hujus senten-
tiae , Pax Bello Potior.

This, Sir, is one tryal of
his *Contemplative*, you shall
have more of his *Practical*
Politicks. He has ventur'd
to declare the *Queen Mothers* P.127.
thoughts , about her most
private , and Domestick
concernments ; which were
so near to her, that it was
impossible for a thousand
Madame Fiennes , to have
given him any instruction
about them. And in this

N he

he had no reverence for the greatest, and the most vertuous *Princess* of this Age, for the *Mother* of our *King*, nor for the *Daughter* of *Henry the Great*. He has made a disadvantageous Character on my Lord

128. *St. Albans* to the *French Nation*, where he was before so well known, and where he liv'd long in so much honour. He has presum'd on the *King* himself: he

P. 129. sawcily conjectures at the reasons of the choice of his *Ministers*, as if he had been

been admitted into his *Royal*
Breast as well as his *Cabinet*.

He says, that His *Majesty* is P. 121.

forc'd to be familiar with his
Nobility, and *Gentry*, to keep
their esteem and good will: and
so he endeavours to bring
down those *Vertues*, of
which he himself receiv'd
so many proofs, to be only
works of necessity. But
seeing he confesses this ge-
nerous affability to be able
to hinder the *Kings* Sub-
jects from rebellion, me-
thinks it might have pre-
vail'd on a mean stranger,

180 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
to spare the Reputation of
his Kingdoms. He infi-

P. 132. nuates, that *the true Sovereign*
Power amongst us resides in
the People. Which is a Do-
ctrine that was scarce ever
heard of in *England* till the
year *Forty eight*, and va-
nish'd in *Sixty.* He af-

P. 148. firms, that *there is a mixture*
of all sorts of Government in
the composition of our State,
notwithstanding that we
have so many *Acts of Par-*
liament that devolve the
whole power on the *Crown.*
His long discourse of the
Privi-

Privileges of the House of Commons, and the degrees of P.133.
their increase, is nothing, but to 143.
a wild Whimsy of his owne
Brain. There is no men-
tion in any English Historian,
that Edward the first, was the P.137.
King that first call'd Knights,
and Burgeses, to sit in Parli-
ament: or that when they
were so conven'd, he only us'd
their Counsel, and rejeſted
those of the Nobility and Gen-
try. And yet upon these
imaginary faults, of which
he supposes Edward the first
Guilty, he here takes him in-

P. 141, to his discipline, reads to him
142, a tedious Lecture of the Arts
143. of Government, and treats
the Wisest and most Victori-
ous Prince of Christendom in
that time, as imperiously as
if he had been a Cadet of the
House of Suze. But I am
weary, Sir, of taking notice
of such errors, which are
only mistakes in *History* or
Chronology. At least I need
not go three hundred years
back for them, seeing he is
so much besides the Truth,
in his account of the most
Renown'd action in this
Age:

Age: the *Kings Return*:
Which he wholly attributes to P.
the Presbyterians. All the
circumstances of that glo-
rious Restauration are still,
Sir, fresh in our memories:
the very noyse of those Tri-
umphs, w^{ch} fill'd the whole
World with admiration,
seems to be yet scarce out
of our Ears. And shall we
suffer him to fix all the ho-
nour of that Immortal Work
on a private Sect? Where-
as it was accomplish'd by
the immediate favour of di-
vine Providence, by the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Wisdom of a *Victorious General*, by the perpetual and
immoveable Fidelity of the
Royal Party, by the Hands,
the Wishes, the Tongues,
and the united Desires of
three Kingdoms. 'Tis true
indeed, the *Presbyterians* went
along with the mighty Tor-
rent; But the whole course
of this happy Violence is
not therefore to be attribu-
ted to them. You see, Sir,
I am unawares fallen into a
Metaphor, which does best
resemble that Enterprize.
It was in that, as in a sud-
den

den Land-Flood, which, as it comes down, carries with it Trees, and Stones, and Houses, and all that it meets in the way. And even all these which lay before quiet, nay which resisted the first Waters while they were weak, do add to the impetuosity of the Current, when it is going. But we must not therefore say that the Flood it self took its rise from thence : seeing it was, in truth, caus'd by Rain coming down from Heaven, and by Streams flowing in from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
from every part of the
Country. This allusion,
Sir, I think does represent
the whole matter to your
mind. If it does not, how-
ever I have return'd *Monsi-
eur de Sorbiere*, an ill Simili-
tude for one of his, where
P. 47. *he compares the Protestants to*
the Ottoman Empire : which
is so much an *Intrigue of the*
Muses, that I will challenge
all the Witts of *England*,
and *France*, to interpret it.
But if the *Covenanters* shall
still be fond of this praise,
which he here allows them,
let

let them remember of how little value his *Panegyricks* are, seeing he calls *Ulfelt* a *Heroe*: and if they will still maintain that they restor'd the *King*, let them take heed least some mischievous *Royallist* should tell them, that in one sense they did indeed occasion the *Kings* Restoration. But in the same that *Quintus Maximus* meant after he had recover'd *Tarentum*: who gave this answer to another *Roman* that had lost that place before, and yet boasted
what

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
what share he had in regaining it. 'Tis true (says he) it was by your means indeed ; *Nam nisi tu perdidisses Tarentum, ego nunquam recuperassem.*

But the chief Secret into which he has pierc'd, is the late Controversie between *my Lord Chancellor*, and the *Earl of Bristol*. What subtle conclusions does he draw from it ? what propheticall visions does he here reveal, concerning the terrible disturbances, that shall arise to our *Government,*

ment, many ages hence, from an accident, which was at an end, before he got back to *Paris* ? What a formal division has he made of the whole Nation ? *Homer* himself is not so punctual in marshalling the forces of the *Greeks*, and the *Trojans* : nor is there lesse fiction in this *History*, then in his *Poetry*. On the *Earl of Bristol's* quarter, he places the discontented against the Court, the City of *London*, the *Presbyterians* that brought in the *King*, the *House of Lords*, a great,

P. 126,
127.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's great, and a strong party of the House of Commons, which he says is the true Body of that extravagant Body the Parliament. An Army numerous and formidable. On the Lord Chancellors side, he ranks the Royal Family, the Bishops, Deans, and Chapters, all the Nobility, all the Rich Merchants, and Burgeses, (though he had before bestow'd the House of Lords, and the City of London on the Earl of Bristol.) Thus he has drawn the whole Kingdome into Battalia: It is but now performing

P. 127,

128,

129.

ming his office of *Trumpeter*, and a dreadful Battle will no doubt ensue. But how comes it to pass that all these Rumors of mighty warrs did vanish on the sudden? Was it because they were *English Cowards*, P. 21. and dar'd not fight? Alas, Sir, all this was only a fine story of incounters in the Air, whereof there was no other foundation then in the wild fancies of his own making. And may we not give that Character of our *Historian*, which he does of
one

one of the Noble Combata-
 P.126. *tants, that his great Wit has inclin'd him to be Romantick? Is not this the true trick of a Romancer, to bring in many Princes fighting together in a wood, without giving any account how they came thither ?*

But the danger is over. All is quiet again ; and long may it so keep. For to speak t' yee, Sir, *from the bottom of Monsieur de Sorbier's heart , Peace is better then Warr.* Well then. He
 P.129. *grants that the Victory did a little*

little incline to my Lord Chancellor's Party : yet he has shewn the bravery of his own mind, by defying the Conquerour. And here, Sir, I confess he has driven me upon one of the tenderest points in the world ; which is the speaking concerning the fame of a great Man, while he is living. But I entreat you to lay before your eyes the many powerfull arguments, by which I am mov'd at least to give a true testimony, though not a long elogie, concerning him.

O

My

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
My Lord Chancellor is a man
through whose hands the
greatest part of all the pub-
lique and private busineses
of our Countrey do pass:
And it will be most disho-
nourable for us, to suffer
his name to be revil'd in
this manner, while he is
scarce at leisure to look to
its defence himself, by rea-
son of his eternal Labors
for the publique Justice and
Safety. And besides this,
Sir, I can, for my own par-
ticular, allege another mo-
tive of nearer concernment.

For

For I am to consider my self, as a Member of the *Royal Society*, and the *University of Oxford*, and the *Earl of Clarendon*, as *Protector of one them*, and *Chancellor of the other*.

These, Sir, are some of his true Titles, however *Monsieur de Sorbier* is pleas'd to pass them over, and give him worse in their stead. First of all, *he says that he is a Presbyterian*. At P.125. this ridiculous scandall, I assure you, Sir, I am not much griev'd. I was (to
O 2 tell

tell you true) in a terrible affright, when I read what he reports, that *almost all*
P.127. *the City of London are Presbyterians.* But now this passage has compos'd my mind again: For it is like to be a very exact computation, which he has made of that Sect, when the first man that he names for a *Presbyterian*, is my Lord Chancellor. He next tells us, that *he is a man of the Law*; a shamefull disgrace: the *Lord Chancellor of England*, whose Office it is to govern
and

and moderate the Law, is a Lawyer. As if I should endeavour to lessen the credit of *Monsieur de Vaubrun*, and prove him unfit to be Governour of *Philippe Ville*, and Colonel of *Light-horse*, by objecting that he is a Soldier; or of *Monsieur de Sorbiere* to be *Historiographer Royal*, by saying that he is skill'd in *Historie*. But he is a Lawyer, and Statesman at once. Can this be any more disparagement to him, then it is to the whole Body of Lawyers in France, who

more

O 3

in

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
in all times have manag'd
the greatest Employments
of that State ? Could he not
have recollected, before he
writ this, that *Monsieur de*
Segnier, the present *Chan-*
cellor of France, is a *Gentle-*
man of the Long Robe ? You
see, Sir, what a good *Saty-*
rist we have here got, who
would undertake to abuse
an *English Statesman* with
such an argument, which
must at the same time re-
flect as much upon his own
Countreymen, his chief
Friends, and *Patrons*, to
whom

whom he directs his Speech.
But the worst is still behind.
My Lord Chancellor is utterly P. 125
ignorant of the Belles Lettres.
This accusation is as decent
as all the former. He dis-
likes our Carriers, for not be-
ing Courtly; our Souldiers, for
not putting off their Hatts well;
our Bishops, for their Gravity;
and our States-men, for not be-
ing Grammarians, and Cri-
ticks. But I will prove to
him, by his own confession,
that *My Lord Chancellor* de-
serves not this reprehensi-
on, and that he is a man
O 4 skillful

P. 126. skillful in all *Polite Learning*. He himself allows him to be a great *Politician*, and a very *Eloquent Man*. I have obtain'd, Sir, what I desir'd. You see how easy it is to justify the *Earl of Clarendon*, seeing the very man, that vilifies him, does at the same time gainsay himself, and suggest to me his praises, without my interposing any word in his commendation. If we should graunt, that a man may chance to be a great dealer in *Politicks*, without understanding any thing

thing else (which yet nothing but *Monsieur de Sorbiere's* own example in this place, can perswade us to be possible) yet how can he be thought to attain to a perfect *Eloquence* without any skill in the *Civil Arts*? Where now is his *Polite Learning*? whence did he fetch this Idea of *Eloquence*? Let him produce his Notes out of *Aristotle*, *Tully*, *Quintilian*, *Seneca*, or any of the *Rhetoricians* of Antiquity; And then let him tell me, whether they do not all with one voice consent

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
consent, that an *Orator* must
of necessity be acquainted
with all sorts of useful know-
ledg? But because he is so
free in his reproof of my
*Lord Chancellors unskillful-
ness in the Belles Lettres*: I
pray, Sir, what signs has
this great *Aristarchus* him-
self given, of his own pro-
ficiency in them? Where
do we find in him any foot-
steps of the True Spirit of
the *Grecian* or *Roman* Wit?
What reason have we to en-
vy his judgment in the *Classi-
fical Authors*, when all the
proof

proof that he has given in this Book, of his being conversant in them, are only three or four pedantical Quotations, of which the chief is,

Os Homini sublime dedit?
Thus farr, Sir, in reply to him : But more is to be added concerning the *Honourable Person*, of whom he speaks in such mean terms. My *Lord Chancellor* is a Gentleman of a very antient Family, of which Mr *Cambden* makes mention in his *Britannia*.

His

His Education and first years were spent in a strict familiarity with many of the most Famous Men, not only of that Age, but perhaps of any other : of whom (to pass by some Reverend and Learned *Church-men* that are living) it is enough to name Mr *Chillingsworth*, and the Lord *Falkland*. His first application to the Affairs of his Countrey, was in a time wherein extraordinary fidelity and sufficiency were requir'd. His Services to the late
King

King were requited by the committing of many eminent Buſineſſes to his management; and by a very high ſhare in his *Majeſties* Favour; of which there are indelible proofs in many places of that *Excellent Prince's Letters*. Under him he was *Chancellor* of the *Exchequer*, *Privy Counſellor*, and deſign'd *Secretary of State*. Since that time he was *Extraordinary Embaſſador into Spain*, and attended his preſent *Maſter* in his Misfortunes, which was undoubtedly

doubtedly the most glorious Scene of Honour in the world. By these several degrees of Great Employments, he ascended to that illustrious Station which he now enjoys. And as for the Qualifications of his Minde, if it be needfull to adde any thing to the Votes of the *Royal Society*, and the *University of Oxford*, I will declare, that of all the men of great worth, who have possess'd that High Office, since Learning and the Civill Arts came amongst us, there

there was never any man that has so much resembled Sir *Thomas More*, and the Lord *Bacon*, in their several Excellencies, as the *Earl of Clarendon*.

There might, Sir, much more be answer'd against all his false Insinuations, concerning the *Political Condition of England*. But I have seen a Book of *Monfieur de Sorbier's Discourses and Letters*, whereof many were written to the late *Cardinal Mazarini*; and they are so full of gross flatteries, that they

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
they have wholly turn'd my
stomach, from speaking any
more of *State Affairs*: So
that in truth, in the present
humour into which the rea-
ding of them has put me,
I had much rather offend
on the other extream, by an
unjust silence, then by im-
pertinent praises of the
English Government. I will
therefore conclude this
whole matter, as I began it,
by reflecting on a Passage
of his own, in the story of
Ulfelt; wherein he has gi-
ven undeniable testimony,
that

that he is wholly ignorant of the Rights of Princes, the true Policy, and the Law of Nations. He affirms, that *Ulfelt fled into Sweden, that he became thereby effectually a Traytor, that he was the cause of the Swedes last invasion into Denmark, by advising Carolus Gustavus to turn his Army, from the Poles, against Coppenhagen.* These are his own words. And what more apparent Crime could there be then this, which had like to have drawn after it the utter Ru-

P ine

210 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
P.186. ine of that *Kingdome*? And
yet immediately after he
professes, that he makes no
doubt, but the *Illustrious He-*
roes, Uleselt, and his Wife, will
live to see their great merits
acknowledg'd, and to enjoy in
peace the applauses that are
due to them for their fidelity to
their *King*, and their zeal for
the *Fundamental Laws* of
their *Countrey*.

Pref. But this, Sir, I suppose,
is one of those which he
himself calls the *Besueues*
of his *stile*: which though
(as he says) *Monsieur de Vau-*
brun

brun uses to forgive, yet the King of France did not think fit to pass by.

This is the Idea that he has drawn of the *Manners*, the *Religion*, and the *Government* of the *English*. But these are not the subjects which he principally regards : such matters as these, he confesses, that *he only uses to touch upon, as they* *Pref.* *come in his way.* I will now therefore, Sir, consider his *commerce with the chief heads* *Ep. De.* *of Parnassus, and his intrigues of the Muses ; that is*

(to speak plain sence, without the help of *Apollo*) I will examine some particulars in the account that he gives of the state of knowledge amongst us: This is the argument in which he triumphs: This is a Business in whose promotion he has spent the whole course of his life. And that he may appear not to have bestow'd all his labour in vain, I will allow, that he ought to be numbred amongst the men of Learning; Provided that he be content with that defi-

definition w^{ch} he himself has laid down of Learned men in general ; For he says, that *it is the good custome of such men, to render themselves ridiculous by their malignity, and their Billings-gate-language.* P. 96.
In conformity to this description, besides what is already past, let us now behold what he reports of Dr. Wallis, Dr. Willis, Mr. Hobbs, the Royal Society, the English Stage, their Eloquence, their Language, and their Authors.

Dr. Wallis he condemns for his ill usage of Mr. Hobbs

P 3 in

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
in the Mathematical Contro-
versies that have pass'd be-
tween them.* I will not en-
deavour to make any de-
fence for this *knowing and
acute Professor*, as he grants
him to be. But yet let me
say, that if *Monsieur de Sor-
briere* himself being the Judg,
so much modesty of lan-
guage ought to be pre-
serv'd, even in the conten-
tions of Wit and Argument,
when Passion is apt to over-
bear the most temperate
Minds; then certainly he
himself ought to have been
careful

careful of keeping to the same rule, in an *Historical Relation*, wherein he had no adversary to put him into a heat, and nothing but his own natural peevishness to exasperate his Anger. Dr. Wallis Entertain'd him at his house, made him partake of his Experiment upon a dumb Man, and behold the Model of a flat Floor, which (he says) did raise admiration in Mr. Hobbs himself. And for all this, he might have deserv'd at least, to have been pass'd by in silence. But he had

P. 94,
95.

a good subject to be merry with, for want of *Polish Musick*, and he must needs give the receipt of making an *University Cap*. Take a *Portefueille*: cover it with *black Cloth*: fix a tuft of *Silk* upon it: and sew it to a *Calot*: and you have a perfect four corner'd *Scholastical Bonnet*. Do you not now wonder, Sir, why he did not call himself *Taylor*, as well as *Trumpeter*, to the Commonwealth of Learning? What kind of good breeding is this? How can he, after this, object

object to *Dr. Wallis*, that he
has little in him of the Gallant
Man? Whose behavior has
the strongest scent, and wants
most to be purify'd by the air of
the Court? The Geometrician
receives him kindly at his
Table: The Historiographer
Laughs at the habit of his Host.
While he allows him extra-
ordinary abilities, that are
proper to himself, he abuses
him for that, which is com-
mon with him to the *Sorbo-*
nists in France, and almost all
the *Universities* and *Clergy-*
men in Christendom.

P. 100.

P. 101.

He

P. 94. He declares that *he profited very little by Dr. Willis's company, because he could not understand his Latin.* And upon this he objects, that
P. 94. *all the English pronounce that Language with such an odd Tone, as renders it almost as difficult to strangers, as our own Tongue.* I might here, Sir, allege in defence of our pronuntiation, that We do as all our neighbors besides: We speak the antient *Latin*, after the same way that we pronounce our Mother Tongue, so the *Germans* do,
so

so the *Italians*, so the *French*.
But the obscurity of our
Speech being not only his
complaint, but of many o-
ther Foreiners, I will not
stand long in its justificati-
on. There are so many pecu-
liar slanders of greater con-
cernment, w^{ch} he alone has
fix'd upon us, that I will not
regard this small objection,
wherein there may be o-
thers, that agree with him.
But however, Sir, from
hence I may observe, that it
was therefore impossible for
him to take a right measure
of

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
of the *English Manners*, and
Disposition, seeing he was in-
capable of holding any sort
of correspondence with us.
He was not in a condition
of being inform'd by our
Gentry, our *Farmers*, or our
Tradesmen, because he under-
stood no *English* : nor by
our *Schollars*, our *Physitians*,
our *Divines*, our *Mathemati-*
cians, because he professes,
that our *Latin* was unintelli-
gible to him.

But to return, Sir, to Dr.
Willis : I am able to give
another Reason, why *Mon-*
sieur

sieur de Sorbierre did profit so little by his Conversation. The substance of it was reported to me from *Dr. Willis* his own Mouth. And I doubt not, but the remarkable sincerity, and integrity, which that excellent Man preserves in all his Writings, would make this character of the other's vanity to be believ'd, though we had not so many other proofs of it. When *Monsieur de Sorbierre* came first to visit him; the *Doctor* esteem'd him to be a man of some real and solid knowledg

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
knowledg : the great names
of *Des Cartes*, and *Mersennas*,
which he hath frequently
in his Mouth, might have
perswaded him as much :
he began to treat him accor-
dingly : he enter'd into di-
scourse with him , about
some parts of *Chymistry*, and
Physick, in which he desir'd
his opinion. The Profes-
sor deliver'd it franckly,
and plainly, as it became a
Philosopher, without de-
ceipt or ornament. But
expecting that he would
have continued the *Argu-*
ment,

ment, with some material Objection, he soon found that the Traveller understood nothing of the whole matter: but answer'd him, as little to the purpose, as if he had only said *Pax Bello Potior*. He try'd him in other subjects. But nothing could he get of him, except only some few Philosophical terms, and ends of Poetry, as *In puris naturalibus Ex æquo & Bono contendantur grosso modo. Homo est animal credulum & mendax*; and *Os homini*. Upon this

P.206.

P.188.

this he gave him over, as he would have done a yongtraveller of twenty years old, & left him to reckon the College

P. 102. *Quadrangles, to tell the Pillars in Saint John's Cloysters,*

P. 103. *to commend their Grove, to measure King Harry's Sword,*

P. 105. *to describe Saint Catherines College (if there be any such there,) to examine why one of*

P. 102. *the Colleges took its name from a Brazen Nose, to number the*

P. 103. *Books in the Bodleian Library, to consider why it was built in the form of an H. and to count*

P. 104, 105. *how many Folios, and how ma-*

ny

my Quarto's are above and below in every Shelf. These, Sir, he perceiv'd were fitter Subjects for *Monsieur de Sorbiere* to handle. And he has confirm'd this his Opinion of him to be true. For his long Tale of his Journey to *Oxford*, is made up of such childish contemplations: While he was speaking of that place, which for the beauty, and convenience of its buildings, for the vastness of its revenue, and above all, for the sobriety, the virtue, and

Q

the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
the piety of its discipline,
is to be prefer'd before all
others that have been ever
dedicated to liberal Stu-
dies, in the past, or present
times.

But here, Sir, I confess I
have been a little too rigid
upon him. It was ill
done of me, to expect that
he should on the sudden
turn so unlike himself, as to
give a good account of our
University alone. I will not
therefore bestir my self a-
gainst him, for having omit-
ted the most memorable
things

things in *Oxford*. My quarrel to him now is upon another score. He has here committed a grosse oversight in his own way: For in this exact enumeration of all our fine Rarities, he has wholly pass'd by one famous Curiosity, which was of all others the most proper for such an *Historiographer*, or at least for such a *Trumpeter* to mention, and that is *Queens College Horn*.

From his new acquaintance, I proceed to his rudeness, towards the only

- man in *England*, to whom
P. 65. he professes himself to have been
long familiar. Mr. Hobbs
was the chief man for whose
sake he came over, and he
speaks very many great things
in his commendation: he
P. 66. prayses his good humor, his ex-
cellent Wit, the vigor of his old
P. 97. Age, and his long and diligent
search into Nature. After
this, Sir, you will perhaps
think that this Philosopher
is safe from his invectives.
But you will find it other-
wise, he commends him in-
deed for that, upon which
Mr.

Mr. Hobbs lays not so much stress, for his good Breeding: but he wounds him in the most dangerous place, his Philosophy, and his understanding. He very kindly reports of him, that *he is too* P. 97.
dogmatical in his Opinions: P. 99.
that he Writ against the Church of Rome, because he never had a right Idea of it, in his thoughts, and because he had only read the controversies on the Protestant side. How d'ye think, Sir, this will sound to Mr. Hobbs, who professes to have reduc'd all

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
the *Politicks* to demonstra-
tions, when his *Translator*
shall tell him, that he con-
cluded against a *Church*,
and a *Religion*, before he had
heard one word that could
be said in their defence?
The Title of *Dogmatical*
which he gives him, being
propounded by a declar'd
Sceptick, was the worst fault
that could be charg'd on a
Philosopher: and indeed
it is the same, that *he bestows*
on Borri, while he strives in a
long Story, to render him to
appear nothing but a foolish
Charletan.

From
P. 177.
#0199.

Charletan. But let him not fear. I have no mind to aggravate this injury to Mr. *Hobbs.* It is the particular manner of his passing this judgment upon him, of which I will take notice. He tells the World *that Mr. Hobbs was censur'd for Dogma-* P. 97.
tical, between his Majesty, and himself, in his private discourse with him. And is not *Monsieur de Sorbriere* a very fit man, to upbraid to *Dr. Wallis,* his want of good manners: when he himself is at once rude to his antient Friend,

and insolent to the *King* himself, in betraying what he was pleas'd to Whisper to him in his *Cabinet*.

But however, to comfort Mr. *Hobbs* for this affront, I dare assure him, that as for *Monsieur de Sorbier's* part, he understands not his Philosophy. Of this I will give an unanswerable testimony,
P. 97. and that is *the resemblance that he makes of him, to the Lord Verulam*: Between whom there is no more likeness, then there was between
He

St. George and the Waggoner. P. 97,

He says that Mr. Hobbs was 98.

once his *Amanuensis*; that from thence he has retein'd very much of him: that he has Studied his manner of turning things: that he just expresses himself in that way of Allegory, wherein the other excell'd: and that he is in Truth a very remaine of my Lord Bacon. This, Sir, is his opinion: but how far from being True, let any man judg, that has but tasted of their Writings. I scarce know two men in the World,

World, that have more different colors of Speech, then these two great Witts: The Lord *Bacon* short, allusive, and abounding with Metaphors: Mr. *Hobbs* round, close, sparing of similitudes: but ever extraordinary decent in them. The one's way of reasoning, proceeds on particulars, and pleasant images, only suggesting new ways of experimenting, without any pretence to the *Mathematicks*. The other's bold, resolv'd, settled upon general conclusions,

sions, and in them, if we will believe his *Friend, Dogmatical*.

But it is the *Royal Society*, to which he is most favourable, and that he may shew him self a great Benefactor to their designe, *he has be-* P. 86.
flow'd Gresham College upon them. Whereas, you know, Sir, they only hold their present meetings there, by the permission of the *Professors* of the Foundation of Sir *Thomas Gresham*, to whom that house does belong. We are beholding
to

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
to him for this noble Boun-
ty. But perhaps the *Citizens*
of *London*, who are the over-
seers of Sir *Thomas Gresham's*
Will, may take it ill at his
hands, especially having
such just ground to quarrel
with him already: For he
said before, *that they are al-*
most all Presbyterians or Pha-
naticks.

He comes to describe
the *Weekly assemblies* of the
Royal Society: and he does
it in words becoming a
meeting of Natural Philo-
sophers. *The Usher carries*

a great Silver Mace before the President, Which is layd on the Cushion where he sits: they have a large Hall, and a handsom Anti-chamber: the place where they Assemble is Wainscotted: there is a long Table before the Chimny, seven or eight grey Chairs about it: some Benches behind, that are bare: the hindermost higher then the first: the President sits in a Chair with Arms: his back to the Chimny: holding a wooden Hammer in his hand, wherewith he sometimes knocks the Table to make silence.

Can

Can you, Sir, indure to read all this stuff with any patience? I suffer'd his Tittle Tattle upon *Rocheſter Bridg*, upon the *Eternal greeness* of the *Fields of Kent*, upon the *Walls of Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, on the *Guild-Hall*, on the *Rancks of Trees in Morefields*, and many more such pretty Philosophical Discourses: But is not this a shameful signe of his weakneſs, that he has insisted so long on such mean circumstances, while he was describing a subject, that might have yield-

yielded him so much noble matter for his Pen? And when the *Royal Society* it self is so careful, that such ceremonies should be just no more, then what are necessary to avoyd confusion? What other Language should he have us'd then this, if he had been to inform the World of his own *Schole at Orange*? Just so he should have proceeded. He should first have declar'd, whether the Room were Hung, or Wainscotted: Next, whether the Master
fate

fate with his back towards the Window, or the Chimney : then how many Seats there were for the Boys to sit upon : at last he should have drawn himself in a majestick Chair, his *Ferula* in his hand, and the poor Scholars trembling for fear at every rap on the Table.

But all this is still pardonable: he has been utterly mistaken in the report of their main design. There are two things, that they have most industriously avoided, which he attributes
to

to them: the one is a dividing
into parties, and Sects; and
the other, a reliance upon
Books, for their intelligence of
Nature. He first says, that
they are not all guided by the
authority of Gassendus, or Des
Cartes; but that the Mathe-
maticians are for Des Cartes,
and the Men of General Lear-
ning for Gassendus. Where-
as neither of these two
Men bear any sway amongst
them: they are never nam'd
there as Dictators over
men's Reasons; nor is
there any extraordinary re-
ference

P. 92.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ference to their judgments.

P. 87,
88.

He also asserts that the Royal Society has appointed Lodgings, and establish'd four thousand Livres a year, upon two Professors, who shall read to them out of Authors, and that they have begun a Library for that purpose. Whereas they have as yet no Library, but only a Repository for their Instruments, and Rarities: they never intend a Professorian Philosophy, but declare against it: with Books they meddle not farther, then to see what Experiments

ments have been try'd before: their Revenue they designe for *Operators*, and not for *Lecturers*.

I now pass over to his chief delight, the *Belles Lettres* of the *English*. He grants our *Stage* to be handsom, the *Musick* tolerable, better I suppose, then that of the *Polack Gentleman*. But yet he says that our *Poets* laugh at the *Rules of Time, and Place*: P.167. that all our *Playes* contain the *Actions of Five and Twenty* P.168. years: that we *Marry a Prince in the First Act*, and bring in

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
his Son fighting in the Second,
and his Grand-child in the
Third.* But here, Sir, he
has committed a greater
disorder of time, then that
whereof he accuses our
Stage; For he has con-
founded the Reign of King
Charles the Second, with that
of *Q. Elizabeth*. 'Tis true,
about an hundred years
ago, the *English Poets* were
not very exact in such de-
cencies: But no more then
were the *Dramatists* of any
other Countries. The *Eng-
lish* themselves did laugh
away

away such absurdities as soon as any, and for these last *Fifty* years, our Stage has been as Regular in those Circumstances, as the best in *Europe*. Seeing he thinks fit to upbraid our present Poets, with the errors of which their predecessors were guilty so long since: I might as justly impute the vile absurdities that are to be found in *Amadis de Gaul*, to *Monsieur de Corneille, de Scudery, de Chapelaine, de Voiture*, and the rest of the famous Modern *French Wits*.

R 3 He

He next blames the *mean-
ness of the Humors which we
represent*. And here, because
he has thrust this occasion
upon me, I will venture to
make a short comparison
between the *French Drama-
tical Poetry*, and *ours*. I
doubt not, Sir, but I may
do this with the leave of that
witty Nation : For as long
as I do not presume to slan-
der their manners (from
which you see I have care-
fully forbore) I hope they
will allow me to examine
that which is but a matter
of

of Wit, and delight : I will not enter into open defiance of them, upon *Monsieur de Sorbier's* account, but I intreat them to permit me only to try a civill Turnament with them in his *War of Letters*. I will therefore make no scruple to maintain that the *English* Plays ought to be preferr'd before the *French*. And to prove this, I will not insist on an argument, which is plain to any observer, that the greatest part of their most excellent pieces have been taken

R 4

from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
from the *Spaniard*: where,
as the *English* have for the
most part trodden in new
ways of Invention. From
hence I will not draw much
advantage: though it may
serve to balance that which
he afterwards says of our
Books, that *they are generally*
P.169. *stolen out of other Authors.*
But I will fetch the grounds
of my persuasion, from the
very nature, and use, of the
Stage it self. It is beyond
all dispute, that the true in-
tention of such Representa-
tions, is, to give to man-
kind

kind a Picture of themselves;
and thereby to make Virtue
belov'd, Vice abhor'd,
and the little irregularities
of mens tempers, call'd hu-
mors, expos'd to laughter.
The Two first of these are
the proper subjects of *Tra-*
gedy, and *Trage-Comedy*. And
in these I will first try to
shew, why our way ought
to be preferr'd before
theirs. The *French*, for
the most part, take only
one, or two Great Men, and
chiefly insist on some one
remarkable accident of
their

250¹ *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
their Story: To this end,
they admit no more Persons,
then will barely serve to a-
dorn that: And they ma-
nage all in Rhythme, with
long Speeches, almost in the
way of Dialogues, in ma-
king high Ideas of Honor,
and in speaking Noble
things. The *English*, on
the other side, make their
chief Plot to consist of a
greater variety of Actions,
and besides the main design,
add many other little con-
trivances. By this means,
their Scenes are shorter,
their

their Stage fuller, many more Persons of different Humors are introduc'd. And in carrying on of this, they generally do only confine themselves to blank Verse. This is the difference. And hence the *English* have these advantages. By the liberty of Prose, they render their Speech, and Pronuntiation, more natural, and are never put to make a contention between the Rhythm, and the Sence. By their underplots, they often change the minds of
their

their Spectators : which is a mighty Benefit, seeing one of the greatest Arts of Wit and persuation, is the right ordering of Digressions. By their full Stage, they prevent men's being continually tyr'd with the same Objects : and so they make the Doctrine of the Scene to be more lively, and diverting, then the precepts of Philosophers, or the grave delight of *Heroick Poetry* : which the *French Tragedies* do resemble. Nor is it sufficient to object against this,

this, that it is undecent to thrust in men of mean condition, amongst the actions of *Princes*. For why should that misbecome the Stage, which is always found to be acted on the *True Theatre* of the World? There being no Court, which only consists of *Kings*, and *Queens*, and *Counsellors* of State. Upon these accounts, Sir, in my weak judgment, the *French Drama* ought to give place to the *English*, in the Tragical and lofty part of it. And now having obtain'd

tain'd this, I suppose they will of their own accord resigne the other excellence, and confels that we have far exceeded them in the representation of different Humors. The Truth is, the *French* have alwaies seem'd almost asham'd of the true *Comedy*: making it not much more then the subject of their *Farses*: whereas the *English* Stage has so much abounded with it, that perhaps there is scarce any sort of extravagance of which the minds
of

of men are capable, but they have in some measure express'd. It is in *Comedies*, and not in *Solemn Histories*, that the *English* use to relate the *Speeches* of *Waggoners*, of *Fencers*, and of *Common Souldiers*. And this I dare assure *Monsieur de Sorbiere*, that if he had understood our Language, he might have seen himself in all his shapes, as a *vain Traveller*, an *empty Politician*, an *insolent Pedant*, and an *idle pretender to Learning*. But though he was not in a
condi-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 condition of taking advice
 from our Stage, for the cor-
 recting of his own Vices, a
 yet methinks he might
 thereby have rectify'd his
 judgment about ours : he
 might well have concluded,
 that the *English* temper, is
 not so universally heavy and
 dumpish, when he beheld
 their Theatres, to be the
 gayest, and merriest in *Eu-
 rope*.

Concerning the *English*
Eloquence, he bravely de-
 clares, that *all their Sermons*
in the Pulpit, and Pleadings
 at

at the Bar, consist of nothing P.168,
but meanpedantry. The cen- 169.

sure is bold, especially from
a man that was so far from
understanding our lan-
guage, that he scarce knew,

Whether we move our lips, or P.169.
no, when we speak. But to

shew him, that we can bet-
ter judge of *Monsieur de Sor-*

bier's Eloquence, I must tell
him, that the *Muses* and

Parnassus are almost whip't
out of our very Scholes :

That there are many hun-
dreds of *Lawyers* and *Preach-*

ers in England, who have
S long

long known how to contemn
 such delicacies of his stile.
 I will only give one instance
 for all. I believe, he could
 scarce have Brib'd any
 Scriveners Clerk, to describe
Hatfield as he has done, and
 P.158. so to conclude, *That the*
Fishes in the Ponds did often
leap out of the water into the
air, to behold, and to delight
themselves with the beauties of
that place.

I will not attempt to de-
 fend the *Ornaments*, or the
Copiousnesse of our *Language*,
 against one that is utterly
ignorant

ignorant of it. But to shew how plentiful it is, I will only repeat an observation, which the *Earl of Clarendon* has made; That there is scarce any Language in the world, which can properly signify one English expression, and that is *Good Nature*. Though *Monsieur de Sorbier* will not allow the *Noble Author* of this *Note*, to have any skill in *Grammar Learning*: Yet he must pardon me, if I still believe the observation to be true: At least, I assure you, Sir, that after all

my search, I cannot find any one word in his *Book*, which might incline me to think otherwise.

But I will be content to lay the whole authority of his judgement in matters of Wit, and Elegance, upon what he sayes concerning
P. 168, the *English Books*. He af-
169. firms, *That they are only impudent thefts out of others, without citing their Authors, and that they contain nothing, but ill Rhapsodies of matter, worse put together.* And here, Sir, I will for once do him a courtesie.

courtesie. I will suppose him not to have taken this one character of us, from the *Soldier*, the *Zealander*, the *Puritans*, or the *Rabble* of the *Streets*: I will grant he might have taken an ill conceit of our writings, before he came over, from the usual judgement, which the Southern wits of the world, are wont to passe on the wit of all Northern Countries. 'Tis true indeed, I think the *French*, and the *Italians*, would scarce be so unneighbourly, as to assert, that *all*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
our Authors are Theivish Pe-
dants. That is *Monsieur de*
Sorbier's own addition, but
yet they generally agree ,
that there is scarce anything
of late written, that is worth
looking upon, but in their
own Languages. The *Italians*
did at first endeavour to
have it thought , that all
matters of Elegance , had
never yet pass'd over the
Alps : but being soon over-
whelm'd by Number, they
were content to admit the
French , and the *Spaniards*,
into some share of the ho-
nour.

nour. But they all three still maintain this united opinion, that all wit is to be sought for no where but amongst themselves : It is their establish'd Rule, that good sense has alwayes kept neer the warm Sun , and scarce ever yet dar'd to come farther then the forty ninth degree Northward. This, Sir, is a pretty imagination of theirs ; to think they have confin'd all *Art* to a *Geographicall Circle*, and to fancy that it is there so charm'd, as not to be able

to go out of the bounds which they have set it. It were certainly an easy and a pleasant work to confute this arrogant conception, by particular examples: It might quickly be shewn; that *England, Germany, Holland*, nay, even *Denmark*, and *Scotland*, have produc'd very many men, who may justly come into competition with the best of these Southern wits, in the Advancement of the true Arts of life, in all the works of solid reason, nay, even in
the

the lighter studies of ornament, and humanity. And, to speak particularly of *England*, there might be a whole *Volume* compos'd in comparing the Chastity, the newnesse, the vigour of many of our *English* Fancies, with the corrupt, and the swelling Metaphors, wherewith some of our Neighbors, who most admire themselves do still adorn their Books. But this, Sir, will require a larger discourse then I intend to bestow on *Monsieur de Sorbiere*. I am able to dispatch

patch him in fewer words. For I wonder how, of all men living, it could enter into his thoughts, *To condemn in grosse the English Writings*, when the best course that he has taken to make himself consider'd as a writer, was the *Translation of an English Author*.

But I beg your leave, Sir, that I may briefly add, That in the first Restoration of Learning, the *English* began to write well, as soon as any, the *Italians* only excepted: and that if we may
ghesse

ghesse by what we see of the
Italians at this day, the *Eng-*
lish have continued to write
well, longer then they. Sir
Thomas Moore was contem-
porary with *Erasmus*, and
though *he was a man of the*
Law too, yet he yielded not
much to that incomparable
man, in the plenty of his in-
vention, or the Masculine
easinesse of his stile, And e-
ver since that time down to
this (if we may take a mea-
sure of the *English*, by what
Tully says of the *Romans*, in
their most flourishing con-
dition,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
condition, that *they had*
scarce above one excellent Poet
or Orator in an age) we may
make a very advantagious
computation, for the ho-
nour of our Country. We
have at this present, as ma-
ny Masters of true and re-
all Wit, as ever *Greece* pro-
duc'd in one age, whose
names though I conceal, yet
posterity shall declare. We
have had many admirable
Geniuses in *Poetry*, who have
handled most of the antient
and modern subjects of fan-
cy, with wonderfull success.
We

We can name many faithfull
and diligent *Historians*, such P. 185,
as never strove to *frame a* 186.
Romance out of every story, that
they manag'd. And the
number of these will be
shortly increas'd by the la-
bours of *a great man*, from
whom we hope to receive
the *History* of our late warrs,
a subject fit for the pen of a
Privy Counsellor to Kings, who
had himself a great share in
the conduct of these affairs
which he is to relate. Our
Mathematicians we may al-
most equall to those of all
Europe

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's Europe besides : Our *Physicians* have long bin applauded by all the Learned world ; and certainly their *Renowned Colledge* at *London* deserv'd to have bin mentioned, as well as the *Fencers* at the *Red-Bull*. Our famous *Divines* have been innumerable, as the *Dutchmen* may witnesse, who, in some of their Theologicall Treatises, have bin as bold with the *English Sermons*, as with our Fishing, and their robberies have bin so manifest, that our Church ought
to

to have Reprisalls against them as well as our Merchants. We have had many *Philosophers*, of a strong, vigorous, and forcible judgment, of happy and laborious hands, of a sincere, a modest, a solid, an unaffected expression, such who have not thought it enough to set up for Philosophers, only to have got a large stock of fine words, and to have insinuated into the acquaintance of some of the great Philosophers of the age. And above all, we have

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
have one small Book, which
we dare oppose to all the
Treasures of the *Eastern*,
and *Western* Languages, it is
that which was written by
our Late *King*, and *Martyr* :
Whose Majestical stile, and
Divine Conceptions, have
not only moved all his
Readers to admire his Elo-
quence, but inclin'd some
of the worst of his enemies,
to relent their Cruelty to-
wards him.

After all these signs of
his excellent judgment, and
generous mind, there still,
Sir,

Sir, remains that which he
has given of his good *Palat*,
For he has boldly determin'd
the controversie, that had long
depended in all the Kitchings
of England, and France,
which is the best way of eating,
Chines of Beef, and Mutton,
or Bisques, and Potages.
This, I confesse, was a mat-
ter fit to be decided by that
Historian, Critick, Mathe-
matician, Orator, and Phy-
sitian, Who had Travell'd
throughout the world to ac-
quaint himselfe with all the
Learned men of all countries,
T and

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
and to push on all Sciences
to perfection. He has here indeed behav'd himselfe like the true naturall, and experimental Philosopher, whose businesse it is to take in all manner of observations, that can be got from the Senses. You see, Sir, how fairly I treat him, I allow the very Criticisms of his appetite to be a part of his Philosophy; and I look upon his affection to *Fricacies* before *whole Joynts*, to proceed from his love to the Doctrine of *Atoms*, before
that

that of the two great standing dishes of *Matter* and *Form*. But yet I must tell him, that perhaps this Rigid condemning of the *English Cookery*, did not so well suit with his belov'd Title of *Sceptick*. According to the lawes of that profession, he should first have long debated whether there be any tast, or no; whether the steam of a pot be only a fancy, or a reall thing; whether the Kitchen fire has indeed the good qualities of roasting, and Boiling,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
or whether it be only an
appearance. This had bin
a dispute more becomming
a *Sceptick*, then thus to con-
clude Dogmatically on all
the *Intrigues* of *Haut gousts*;
and to raise an endlesse spe-
culative quarrel between
those that had bin hitherto
peaceful and practical *Seëts*,
the *Hasbe's*, and the *Sur-
loiners*.

You may now, Sir, per-
haps expect, that I should
make some Comparifon be-
tween the *French Dyet* and
the *English*. It were, I con-
fefs,

fefs, a pleasant, and a weighty argument . But I am resolv'd to passe it over : not that I think we have the worst of the cause ; but for a particular reason of my own. It is that *Monsieur de Sorbiere* may still remain in his error ; For as long as he is ignorant that there is any good *House Keeping* in *England*, we are like to have no more of his company ; yet I cannot but say to the advantage of *Boil'd Beef and Rost*, that the *English* have the same sincerity

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
in their *Dyet*, which they
have in their *Manners*: and
as they have less mixture
in their *Dishes*, so they have
less sophisticate composi-
tions in their *hearts*, then
the people of some other
Nations.

But now, Sir, I confesse
he has quite tyr'd my hand,
and I almost asham'd to
behold this heap of his va-
nities arise to such a Bulk,
as he ought to be, that he
has given me this occasion
to collect them; I will there-
fore in few words come to
an

an issue with him : I will
fatisfie him in the request
which he makes to this
Reader. I am content to
*conclude from these his three
moneths travells, what kind
of Observations he has made
in the world these thirty years.*
This, Sir, is his own desire,
and I obey him. But then
I know not how he will be
able to avoid the imputa-
tion of those Crimes with
which he has so often slan-
dered the *English*, of be-
ing a *Doe-little*, an *Idle*,
a *Lazy*, and a *Useless Per-*
T 4 son.

son. The description of his *Voyage into Holland* is not yet come to my hands : but if it be of the same thread with this, he had bin much better imploy'd, if he had only imitated the *Roman Emperours* journey thither, and gone to gather *Cockle-shells* on that shore. If he has any friends amongst all the learned men of Europe, that were once his familiars, they would do well to advise him what weight his mind will bear: he is himself in the right, when he acknowledges.

knowledges, that *these mat-*
ters of state, Characters of Ep. De,
Nations, descriptions of Go-
vernments, Churches, and
Courts, are far above the
weakness of his Spirit. But yet
 the Mans abilities are not
 wholly to be discourag'd ;
 he may still prove a tole-
 rable good flatterer of his
 Patrons : he may bring in
 his *Vostre Tres Humble*, arti-
 ficially enough in the end
 of an empty Letter of com-
 plements : he may serve to
 commend Philosophers
 when they are dead : or
 (to

(to conclude with his own dear Epithete) he may make a sufficient *Trumpeter* in the Common-wealth of Learning. And in truth he has behav'd himself, in this *account of his Voyage*, like a true *Trumpeter* ; for *Trumpeters*, when they are sent into foreign armies or countries, are alwayes blinded on purpose that they might not be able to give any certain intelligence, of the places through which they pass'd.

And now, Sir, having dismiss'd

miss'd the *Historiographer*
Royal, that I may speedily
put an end to your trouble,
I will only in few words ap-
ply my speech to your self.
You may perhaps remem-
ber, that we have sometimes
debated together, what place
and time of all the past, or
present, we would have
chosen to live in, if our fates
had bin at our own disposal;
and in that discourse, in-
stead of *desiring to have bin*
born in China, we both a-
greed, that *Rome*, in the *Reign*
of *Augustus*, was to be pre-
ferr'd

ferr'd before all others. The prerogatives of that time were very many : That *City* was then become the establish'd seat of the *Empire* of the world : that *Emperour* had the good fortune to succeed a long civil war : the minds of all men were easily compos'd into obedience by the remembrance of their past misfortunes : the arts of Wit, Reason, and delight were in their highest perfection : the Court was the place of resort, for all the Lovers of generous

rous knowledge : and such was the freedome of their manners, that *Virgil*, *Horace*, and *Varius* were admitted into the privacies , and friendship, of *Agrippa*, *Mecænas*, and *Augustus*. Beyond this we could fancy nothing pleasanter to a Philosophical mind; which was resolv'd to live according to the convenience, and Rules of Nature , seeing it might there have enjoy'd at once all the varieties of an active life, and all the quiet, and peace, of a Retir'd.

This

This, Sir, was then our opinion : But it was before the *Kings Return*. For since that blessed time, the condition of our owne Countrey appears to me to be such, that we need not search into antient *History* for a reall Idea of happiness. 'Tis true that *England* is not the seat of the Empire of the world : But it may be of that which confines the world it self, the Ocean : To this Dominion our Nation is invited, by the Scituation of our shores,

shores, the inclination of our people, and the Genius of a vigorous and skilfull *Prince*. The time wherein we live is upon the recovery of an Universal peace; a peace establish'd on the two surest foundations of Fear, and Love: a peace that was accomplish'd without proscriptions, and even without the ruine of those that resisted it: a peace that was produc'd by peaceful Arts, though it was by the conduct of an Army. The footsteps of
the

the late dreadfull war are not only vanish'd from our eies, but now almost from our thoughts. If any thing of it still remains, it is only the good effect which it had on our country, the industry that was excited by it, and the wisdom which such wofull experience has taught us. The Government which we enjoy, is justly compos'd of a sufficient liberty, and restraint. And though it may be suspected in a querulous and discontented age,

Age , a little to incline the people to disobedience; yet in a calme, and a secure time (such as this at present) it serves admirably well to breed a generous, an honourable, and invincible spirit. The temper of the *English* is free, Modest, Sincere , Kind , hard to be provok'd : if they are not so talkative as others, yet they are more careful of what they speak : if they are thought , by some of their neighbours,

to be a little defective in the gentleness, and the pliability of their humour; yet that want is abundantly supplied, by their firme and their Masculine virtues: and perhaps the same observation may be found true in men, which is in Mettals, that those of the strongest, and the Noblest substance are hardest to be polish'd. The Arts that now prevail amongst us, are not only all the usefull Sciences of Antiquity, but
most

most especially all the late discoveries of this Age in the reall knowledge of mankind, and nature. For the improvement of this kind of light, the *English* disposition is of all others the fittest. And an universal zeal towards the advancement of such designs, has not only overspread our *Court* and *Universities*; but the Shops of our *Mechanicks*, the fields of our *Gentlemen*, the Cottages of our *Farmers*, and the Ships of

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
our Merchants. To all
this, Sir, may be added
the Profession of such a
Religion, and the Disci-
pline of such a *Church*,
which an impartial Phi-
losopher would chuse :
which by falling with the
Throne ; and by rising
with it again, has given
evident signe , how con-
sistent it is with the Laws
of humane society, and
how neerly its interest is
united with the prosperity
of our Country.

'Tis true indeed that
after

after all these advantages, there may be some room still left for future amendments, in the union of our minds, the smoothness of our manners, and the Beauty of our Buildings. This last was the peculiar honour of *Augustus*, who is said to have found Rome of Brick, and to have left it of Marble. In this kind too we every day behold a wonderful progress, by the powerful influence of a *Royal Example*: so that I

may in generall affirm,
that never any Nation
in the world has pro-
ceeded by swifter de-
grees, to excell in Con-
venience and Magni-
ficence. But whatever
is to be added in this,
or any other such way,
we can never receive
it from the petulant cor-
rections of such vain Ob-
servers, as this whom
I have here consider'd.
No, Sir, we are to ex-
pect it from the many
Noble and practicall *Eng-
lish*

lish Wits of this Age :
and chiefly from your
self. For you must give
me leave, Sir, to pre-
sage, that to you your
Country is to owe very
much of its Ornament,
as well as experimental
knowledge, its reputation
and indeed all the li-
ving, and Beneficial Arts,
the enlargement of their
Bounds. This, Sir, I
know will offend your
modesty ; but he is an
ill *English-man*, who would
not have said as much

as this, when your name was mentioned : which if I had omitted, I had bin almost as injurious to our Nation, as this very *Traveller* whom I censure : for as he was unjust in aggravating the faults, so I my selfe had been , in concealing one of the principall glories of *England*.

I beg of you now, Sir, only to permit me to conclude with some Apology for my self. You may, perhaps, wonder all this

this while to see me undertake such an argument, and to prosecute it in a manner, which may appear perhaps a little too sharp for your eye, or my pen. You know, Sir, that I am enemy to all manner of controversies, that I hate contention, though in matters of the greatest concernment, and that I had much rather defend, then accuse: To this I can therefore only reply, for my excuse, that this Letter may not so properly

be

JS

A

File 11

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
be call'd an *Accusation*, as a
Defence: For though I have
confuted the sawciness of
one particular *Man*, yet I
have pleaded for a *Great*, a
Valiant, and a *vertuous*
people. Sir, I am.

Your most Humble and

London,
August 1.
1664.

Affectionate Servant.

THO. SPRAT.